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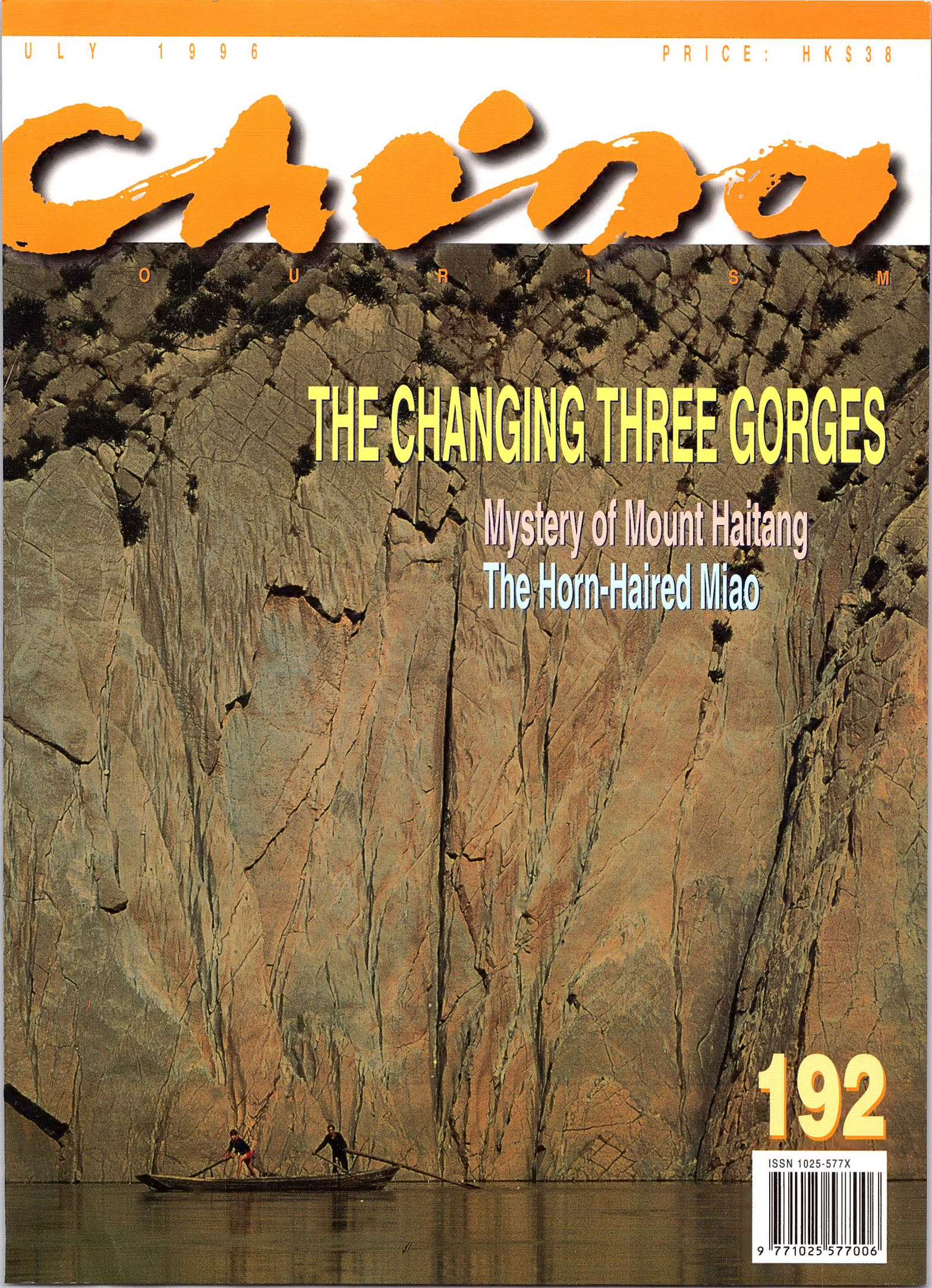

THE CHANGING THREE GORGES

Mystery of Mount Haitang

The Horn-Haired Miao

192

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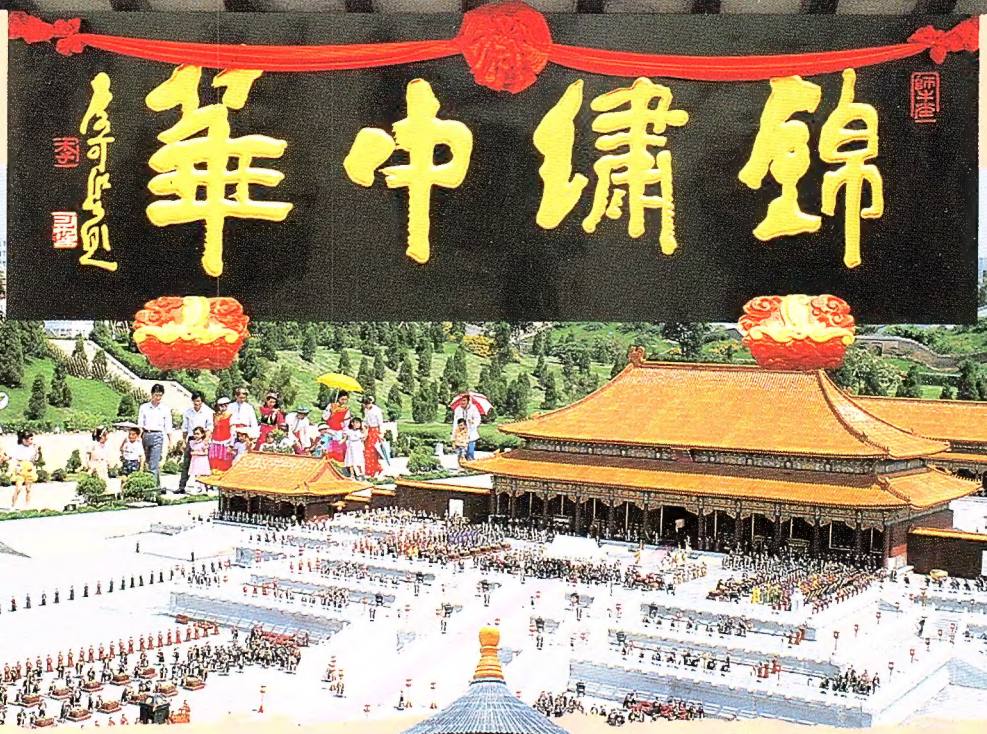

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CHANGING FACE OF THE THREE GORGES

The panoramic splendour and stark charm of the Three Gorges have long been famous. Described as the "Gallery of Poetry" it has inspired many Chinese poets through the centuries and enthralled thousands upon thousands of visitors. However, the Yangtse River, the third longest river in the world, is about to be tamed and this area is about to change forever as the world's largest water conservation project, the Three Gorges Dam, gets under way at Sandouping. A project of mammoth proportions, the statistics themselves are impressive – the 185-metre-high, 3-kilometre-long dam will take over 20 years to complete; in some areas the water level will increase by 170 metres, one million people will need to be relocated, 19 counties and cities and many historical sites will be submerged. One reporter, concerned by the effects, discusses the pros and cons of the project on the area and its people. This month, the changing face of the Three Gorges is brought to you as we journey along the Yangtse River and through the Lesser Three Gorges, visiting some of the historical sites doomed to a watery grave.

One of China's fascinating minority nationalities is the Horn-Haired Miao. Using hair from their deceased descendants, this unusual coiffure originated long ago from the capture of a magnificent pheasant. Far to the northeast, we visit Mount Haitang in Liaoning Province where as many as 200 Tibetan Buddhist images have been carved onto protruding cliffs and rocks, some as large as five metres, others as small as 0.16 metres.

China Tourism

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The Three Gorges Dam project along the Yangtse River will bring many benefits to countless people yet, being the world's largest water conservation project, there is a price to pay – vast areas of land are destined to be flooded, including the region known as the "Gallery of Poetry". Visiting each of the Three Gorges, the Lesser Gorges and their environs this article reports on the future changes.

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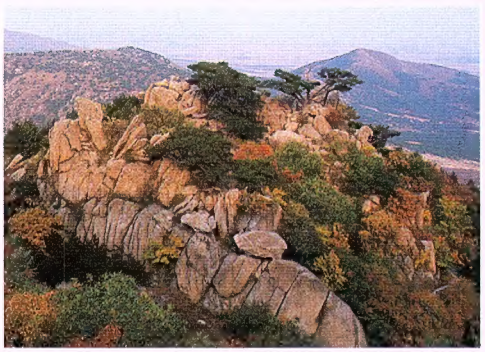

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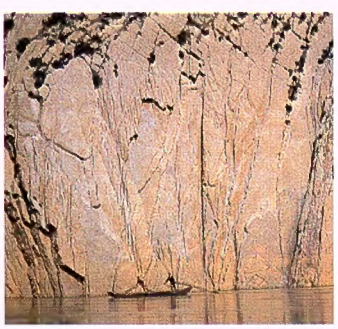
Mystery of Mount Haitang

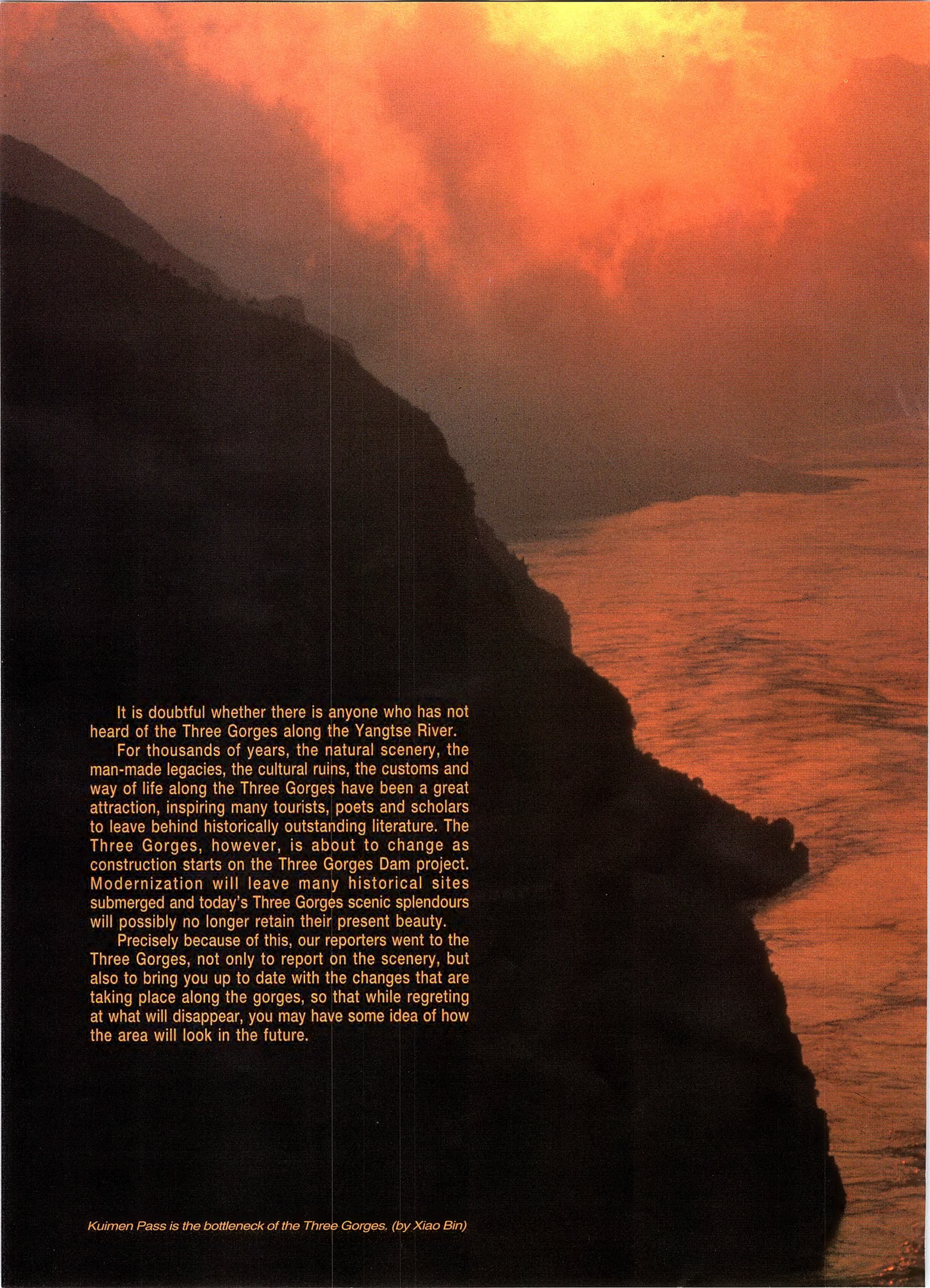
On Crab Apple Mountain (Mount Haitang) in Liaoning Province, lies a mystery.... Why were such a diverse range of Tibetan Buddhist images, in a mixture of Han and Tibetan styles, carved onto exposed rocks so far from the Qinghai-Tibetan Plateau where Tibetan Buddhism originated? Ranging in size, shape and number they at least represent a true cultural integration of ethnic groups.

Visiting the Horn-Haired Miao People

Fascinated by the origins of this unusual hairstyle, our reporter travels to Longga Village in Guizhou Province where, each morning, the women of this Miao village spend up to three hours creating this unique coiffure.



Front Cover: *Thousands of years of erosion have created imposing cliff faces. (by Chen Jin)*

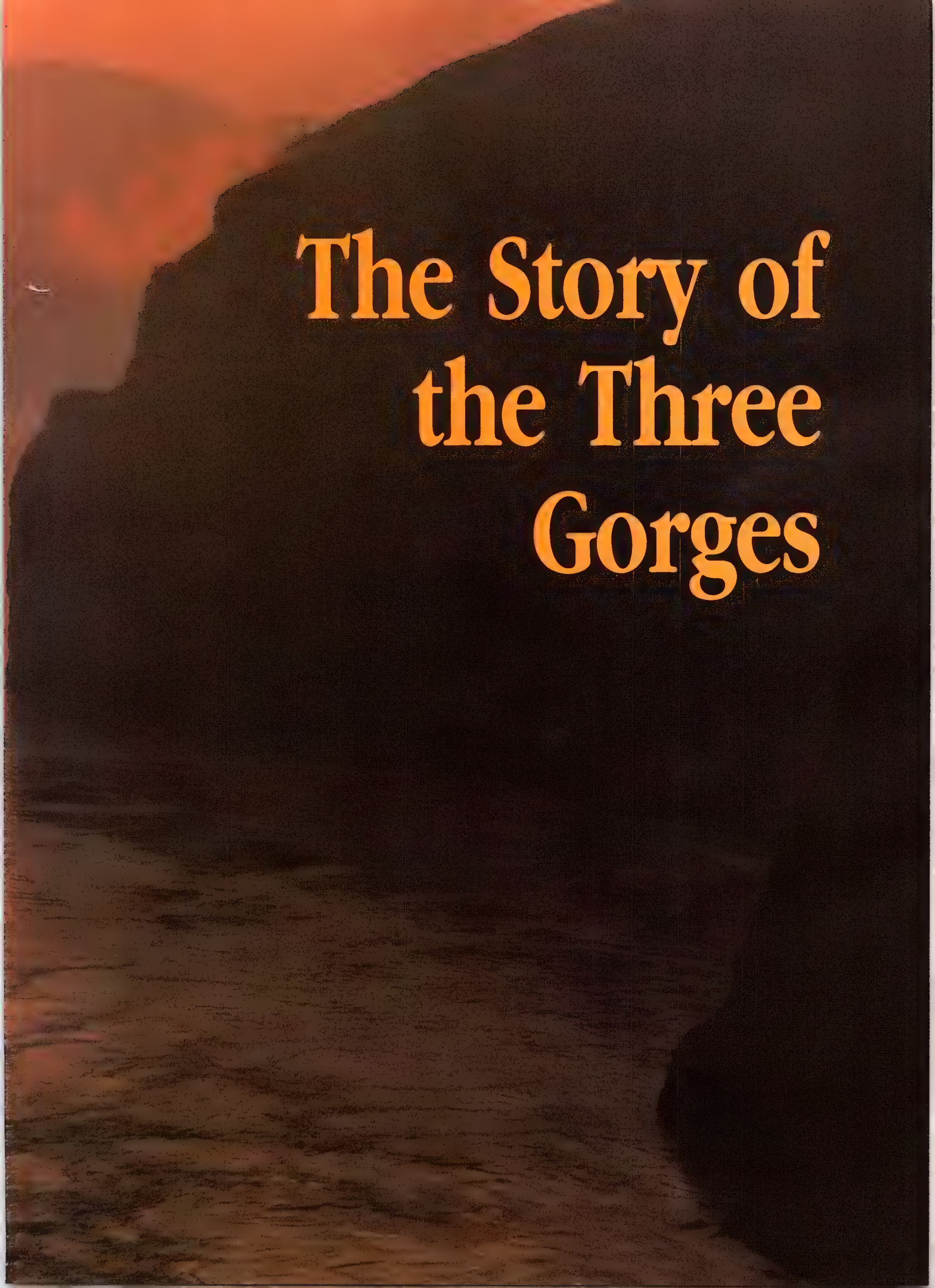


It is doubtful whether there is anyone who has not heard of the Three Gorges along the Yangtse River.

For thousands of years, the natural scenery, the man-made legacies, the cultural ruins, the customs and way of life along the Three Gorges have been a great attraction, inspiring many tourists, poets and scholars to leave behind historically outstanding literature. The Three Gorges, however, is about to change as construction starts on the Three Gorges Dam project. Modernization will leave many historical sites submerged and today's Three Gorges scenic splendours will possibly no longer retain their present beauty.

Precisely because of this, our reporters went to the Three Gorges, not only to report on the scenery, but also to bring you up to date with the changes that are taking place along the gorges, so that while regreting at what will disappear, you may have some idea of how the area will look in the future.

Kuimen Pass is the bottleneck of the Three Gorges. (by Xiao Bin)


The Story of
the Three
Gorges

The extraordinary effects along the Three Gorges after millions of years of erosion. (by Chen Jin)

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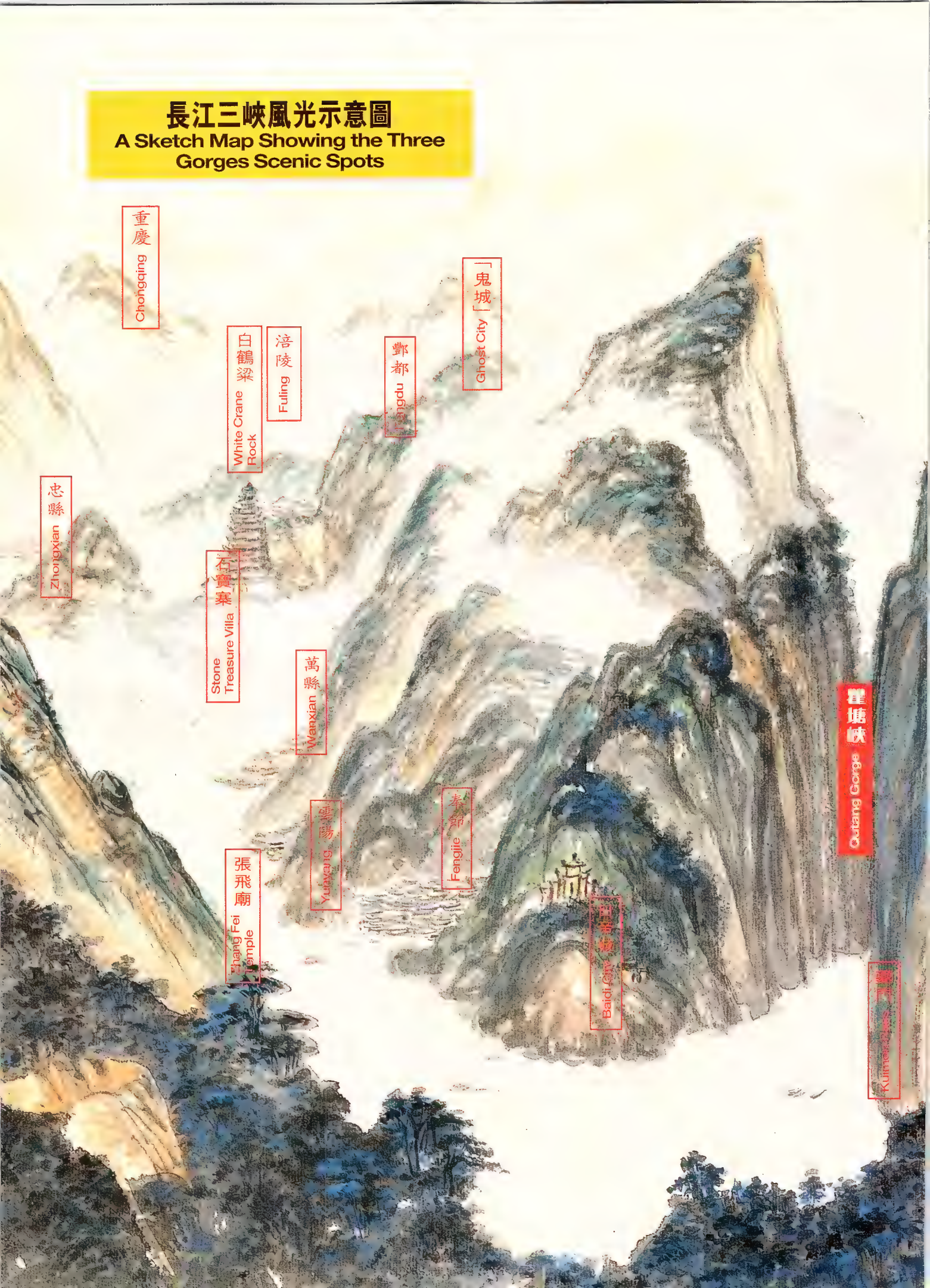
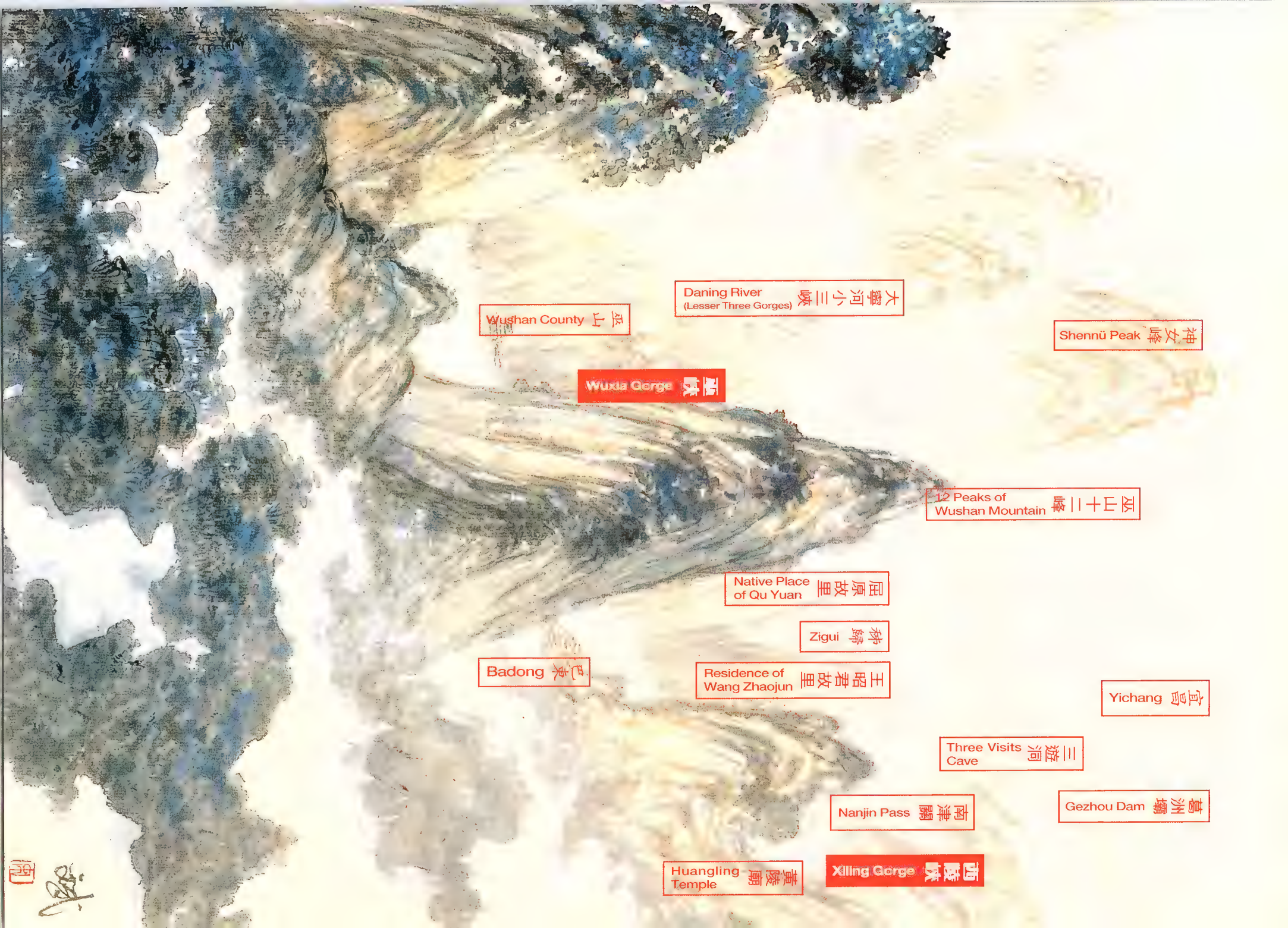
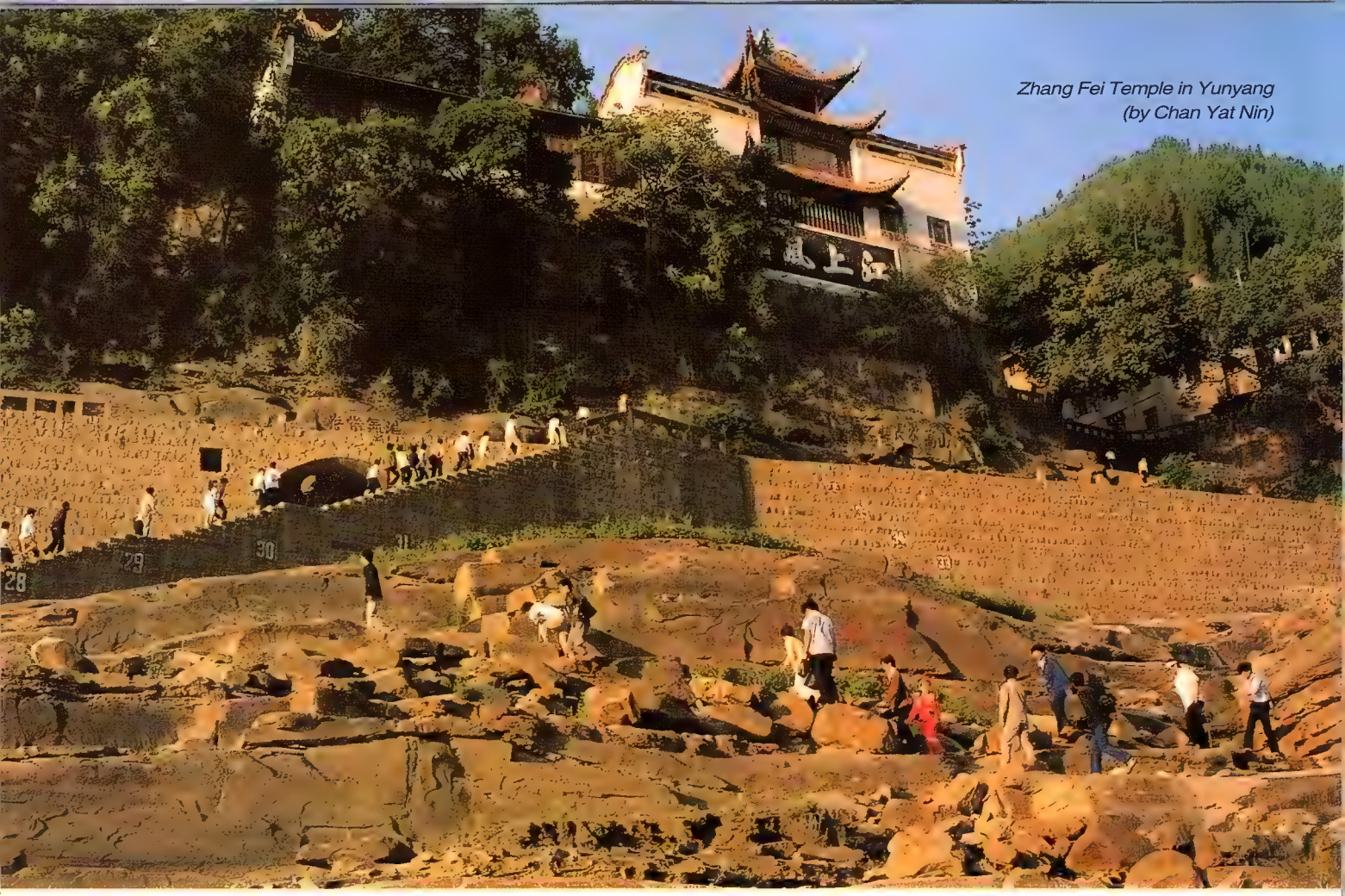
A Sketch Map Showing the Three Gorges Scenic Spots




Daning River (Lesser Three Gorges) 大寧河小三峽
Wushan County 巫山
Shennü Peak 神女峰
Wuxia Gorge 巫峽
12 Peaks of Wushan Mountain 巫山十二峰
Native Place of Qu Yuan 屈原故里
Zigui 秭歸
Badong 巴東
Residence of Wang Zhaojun 王昭君故里
Yichang 宜昌
Three Visits Cave 三遊洞
Nanjin Pass 南津關
Gezhou Dam 葛洲壩
Huangling Temple 黃陵廟
Xiling Gorge 西陵峽



Zhang Fei Temple in Yunyang
(by Chan Yat Nin)

重慶 — 雲陽 Floating Along the Waves

— from Chongqing to Yunyang

As most boat trips to the Three Gorges begin from Chongqing in Sichuan Province, we set off from Chengdu on board a luxury coach and, after a three-hour drive along the expressway, we arrived at Chongqing.

BUSY HEAVENLY GATE

Although Chongqing is linked by road, rail, and air, by far the most unique way of travelling to and from Chongqing is by cruising along the Yangtse River. At Chaotianmen or Heavenly Gate, we found a host of docks spread along the busy river. Some of the old docks have already been renovated to provide spacious passenger lounges and elevators. Bustling with passengers. We found the number of ticket offices was bewildering, leaving room for improvement by the port management. If you decide to go on a river trip to the Three Gorges you will have a great many choices of boat class and sailing times.

GHOST TOWN TO BECOME ISLAND

A few hours out of Chongqing and passing Fuling, is a huge rock called Baihe (White Crane) Rock right in the middle of the Yangtse River. On one side of the rock there are 14 carvings known as "stone fish" which date back to the Tang Dynasty (618-907), serving as watermarks. Unfortunately, this artistic wonder can only be seen when the water is at its very lowest. In addition, there are 160 paragraphs of inscriptions describing the culture, of the ancient times. We learned that when the Three Gorges Dam is built the White Crane Rock will be drowned forever. There have, however, been proposals to cut off the huge rock and move it to another location or to build an underwater museum.

Next, the boat stopped at Fengdu, taking into account passengers' interest in "ghosts". We disembarked, walked to the foot of Mount Mingshan, passing the arch gate to the Ghost Town, and arrived at the Naihe (In-No-Avail) Bridge by cable car. Now we were in the "Ghost District". To cross the bridge, one has to make a donation on the grounds of "saving one's deceased relatives the pain of having to cross the blood river". The atmosphere here was macabre enough and the excuse given for making a donation sounded even more ghastly, who dared not contribute? Further ahead, we crossed Death Path and arrived at the Hometown Watching Terrace. Numerous temples containing sculptures of demons and devils have been built on the island since the Tang Dynasty. In the Palace of Hell and the Under World Jail, all the ghosts held demonic expressions. When the dam is built, half of the Ghost Town will be submerged, turning it into an island.

The Stone Treasure Villa in Zhongxian is the finest example of ancient architecture along the Yangtse. Here the aged tower rise abruptly from the ground, appearing to lean on the mountain cliff. At the foot of the Stone Treasure Villa is a small town permeated with the feel of an ancient rural community.

Translated by Huang Youyi

Stone Treasure Villa (by Chan Yat Nin)

Wanxian County

People used to call it the "East Gateway of Sichuan". It is located to the north of the Yangtse River, 52 kilometres west of the Stone Treasure Villa. Xishan Park is the main scenic spot in the county. It covers an area of 13 hectares and is bordered by Taibai Rock to its back and the Yangtse River in front. There is plenty to admire inside the park with 500 kinds of plants and a 50-metre-high bell tower which is ideal for admiring the scenery.

Chongqing

One of the most popular scenic areas along the Three Gorges, it is located at the intersection of the Yangtse and Jialing River, and is a beautiful mountainous city.

Beiquan (North Spring) Park

Located in Beibei, 52 kilometres northwest of Chongqing. Mount Jinyun provides a backdrop to the park with Jialing River in the west. Other scenic areas are Guxiang (Ancient Fragrant), Guke (Ancient Carvings) gardens and Xiyu (Fish Playing) Pond.

Mount Jinyun

Sixty kilometres from the nearest urban area, Mount Jinyun is also known as "Lesser E'mei Mountain". Lion Peak is the highest of the nine peaks where one has a bird's-eye view of Jialing River and Beibei.

Dazu Grottoes

Located 160 kilometres northwest of Chongqing, Dazu has 40 grottoes scattered in the county.

There are over 50,000 Buddhist-style carvings of the Tang and Song dynasties, of which the most spectacular are to be found on North Hill and Mount Baoding.

Zhongxian County

Not far to the east of Fengdu City, there is an upright mountain called Yuyin. A 56-metre-high, 12-storey building was built half way up the mountain 300 years ago. The obelisk-shaped tower called Shibaozhai, or Stone Treasure Villa, stretches right to the top of the mountain where many pavilions give a panoramic view of the Yangtse River.

雲陽
Yunyang

張飛廟
Zhang Fei Temple

萬縣
Wanxian

Chongqing's Chaotianmen Pier (by Chan Yat Nin)

Fengdu Ghost City (by Chen Jin)

石寶寨
Stone Treasure Villa

忠縣
Zhongxian

名山「鬼城」
Mingshan Ghost City

酆都
Fengdu

Yunyang

Zhang Fei Temple is located to the north of the Yangtse River, at the foot of Mount Fenghuang (Phoenix), opposite to Yunyang County. The temple was built 1,700 years ago to commemorate General Zhang Fei during the Three Kingdoms Period. It is home to 190 pieces of Chinese calligraphy, painted stone carvings and 217 wood carvings.

Fengdu City

An ancient city located on the northern bank of the Yangtse River, its other name is "Ghost City". Many temples and sculptures with a demonic theme can be found here.

Mount Mingshan

Also called Mount Pingdu, 287 metres above sea level with an area of 45 hectares. Most of the temples are built following the contours of the mountain. The mysterious nether-world scenic spots are Palace of Hell, the Gate of Hell, Impermanence Hall, Naihe (In-No-Avail) Bridge, Hometown Watching Terrace.

The Ghost City Temple Fair is held every year from the third to fifteenth day of the third lunar month. "Ghosts" parade through the town, creating much excitement and noise.

白鶴梁
White Crane Rock

長壽
Changshou

涪陵
Fuling

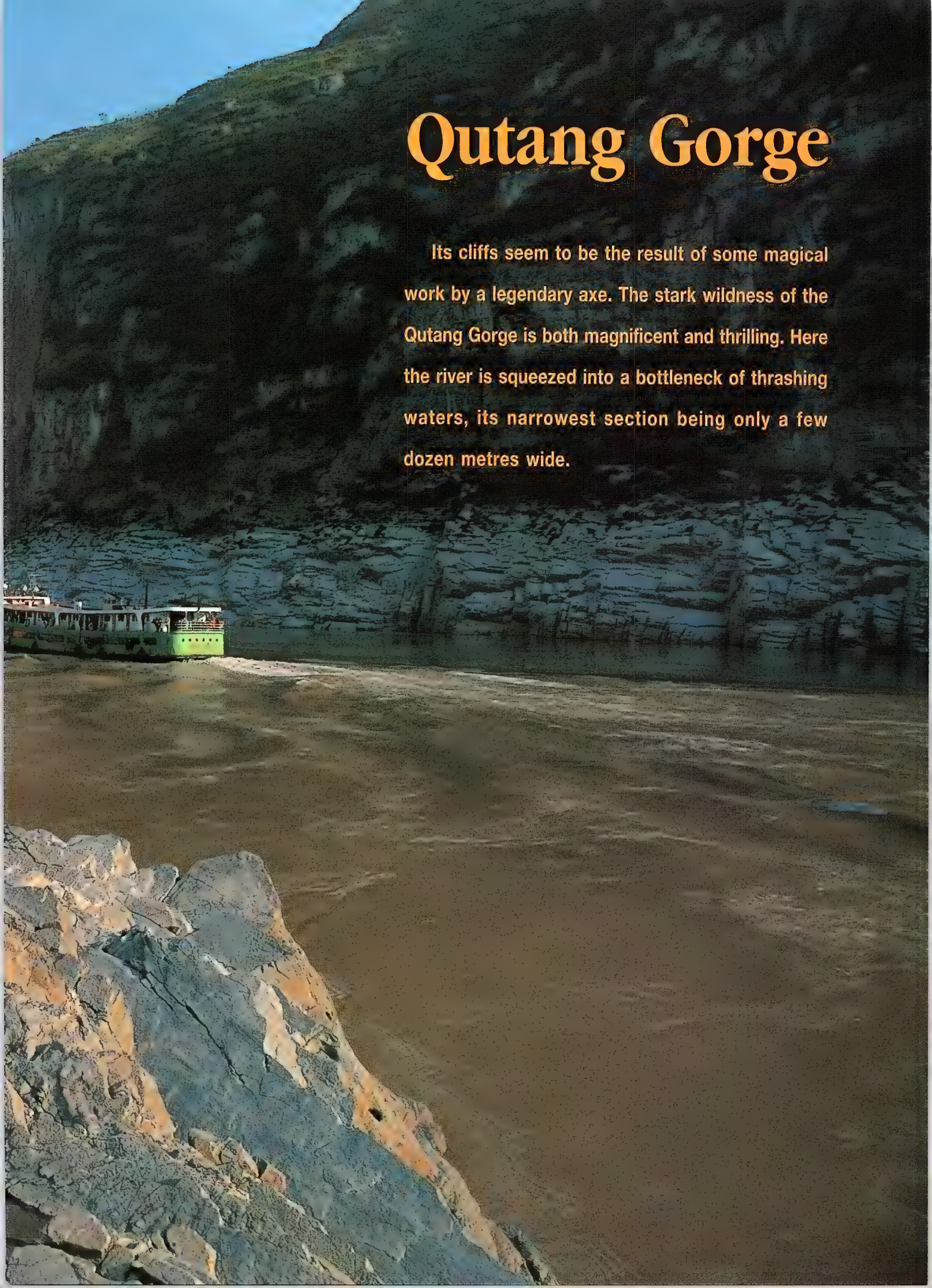
烏江
Wujiang River

重慶
Chongqing

Chongqing's Wangjiangmen Pier (by Peng Zhenge)

Chongqing – a mountainous city (by Shan Xiaogang)

Qutang Gorge, short and narrow, is dangerously steep. (by Chen Jin)

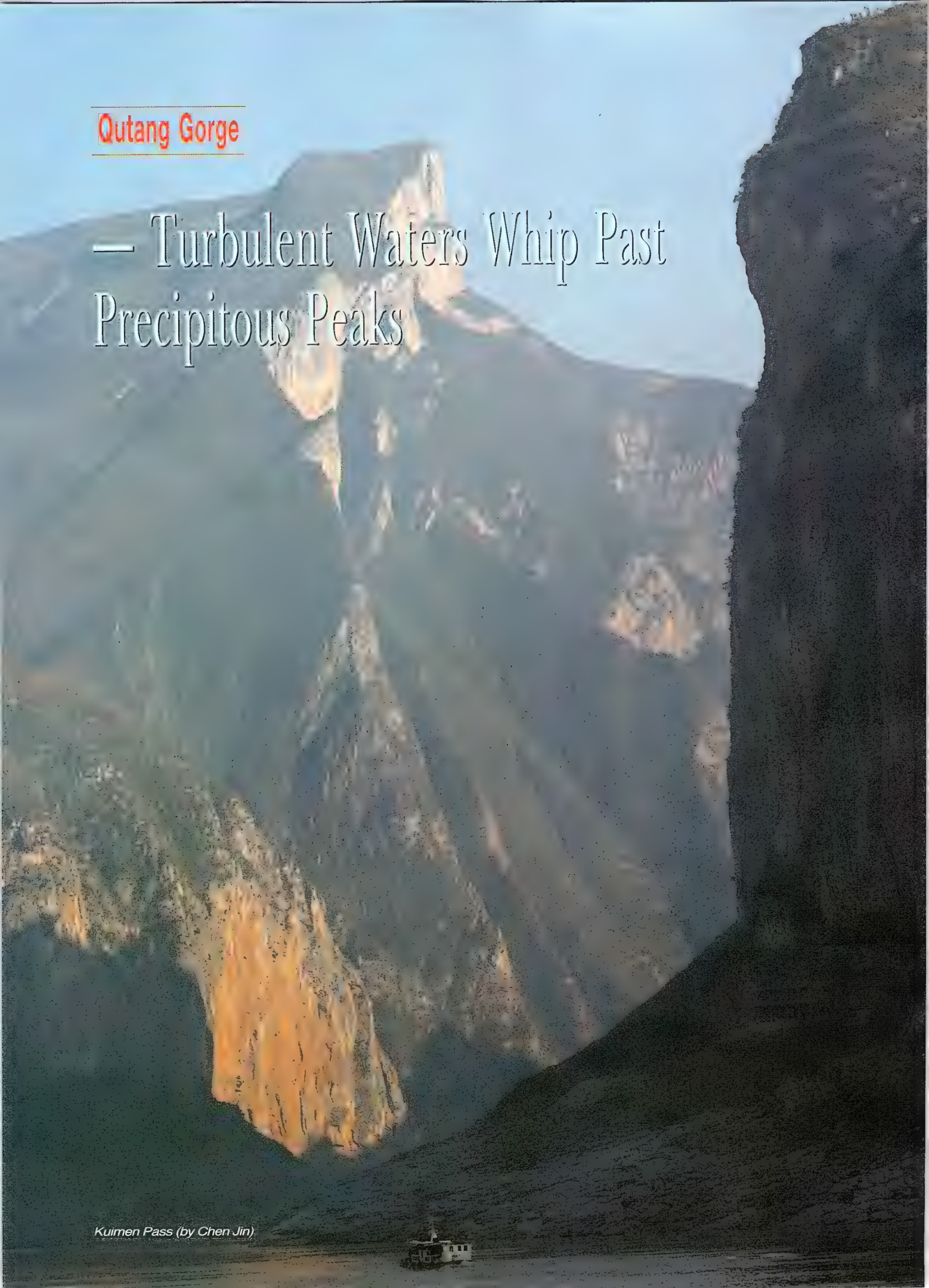


Qutang Gorge

Its cliffs seem to be the result of some magical work by a legendary axe. The stark wildness of the Qutang Gorge is both magnificent and thrilling. Here the river is squeezed into a bottleneck of thrashing waters, its narrowest section being only a few dozen metres wide.

Qutang Gorge

— Turbulent Waters Whip Past Precipitous Peaks



Kuimen Pass (by Chen Jin)

Qutang Gorge

Qutang Gorge is the narrowest and shortest of the Three Gorges at only eight kilometres long. The gorge extends from Daxi Stream in Wushan County in the east to Baidi City in Fengjie County in the west. It is famous for its grandeur and perpendicular cliffs standing 1,500 metres high along the narrow river.

A watery battlefield during the Three Kingdoms Period (by Chen Jin)

Baidi City (by Chen Jin)

Rhinoceros Watching the Moon

Viewed from afar, a rock formation on top of the mountain is shaped like a rhinoceros staring westwards at the moon or towards Kuimen Pass. One can particularly enjoy this miraculous sight at twilight.

Kuimen Pass

Or Qutang Pass, stretches from Mount Chijia to Mount Baiyan. The two mountains sit opposite one another guarding the entrance to the Qutang Gorge, resembling a half-open palace gate. The north peak looks just like an eagle with its head raised.

Chalk Wall stone carvings (by Peng Zhenge)

Baidi City

On the top of the mountain, east of Fengjie City, a group of clay sculptures of Liu Bei, Guan Yu, Zhang Fei and Zhuge Liang, famous figures during the Three Kingdoms Period are housed in Baidi Temple. Other scenic spots are Guanxing (Star Viewing) Pavilion and Wuhou Temple, and the East and West Steles. One can enjoy the best view of Kuimen Pass from the city.

Mount Chijia (by Liu Shaoxuan)

Fengxiang (Bellow) Gorge

Located just opposite the Mengliang Staircase are many dark-brown, bellow-like objects inside the crevices. It was once rumoured that they belonged to Lu Ban, a well-known ancient Chinese craftsman during the Spring and Autumn Period. But after investigation, they were found to be human bones and funeral objects belonging to the Ba people 2,000 years ago.

Mengliang Staircase

Dug into the cliff-side are many 10-inch-wide square holes just deep enough for a man's foot. The man-made staircase leads to a Kuijia (Helmet and Armour) Cave where legend has it that one of the generals of the Yang's Family, Mu Guiying left her suit of armour there. However, historians have found that the cave only contains the swords and coffins of the Ba people.

Ancient plank road (by Shan Xiaogang)

Qutang Gorge

Leaving Yunyang we arrived at Fengjie.

Knowing that Fengjie has many historical sites, we went ashore and entered the Yidou Gate, planning to stay for a couple of days to see the seven or eight sights.

We first went to Baidi City mainly to see the Entrusting Orphen sculptures in the hall of the same name depicting a scene of Liu Bei in the popular historical novel *Romance of the Three Kingdoms*. Today, many people like to take pictures here, some even pretend to be part of the scene. In Baidi City there are the sights of Star Viewing Pavilion, Mingliang Hall, Wuhou Temple and exhibitions of stone tablets and suspended coffins. At the mouth of Meixi River there is a vast expanse of sand which is called Chouyanji by the locals. It is the ruins of the well-known Eight Water Trigrams. It was said that Zhuge Liang, prime minister of Liu Bei, set the trigrams here to lure his enemy into a trap.

LI BAI'S BOAT OF POETRY

In Fengjie the ruins of Yong'an Palace and the tomb of Liu Bei's wife Gan can be found. By the Caotang (Cottage) River, I saw the ruins of Du Fu's thatched cottage and was moved by the poet's determination to "build a cottage instead of a villa". It is said that Du Fu composed 430 poems whilst here. The town was given its name "*Fengjie*" (two characters from *Feng Gong Shou Jie* which mean "loyal to the public and staying thrifty") to set an example for others to follow. Many other men of letters in successive dynasties also visited, giving Baidi City the name of "Poetry City". Among all the scholars, Li Bai was the best-known. One fine day he left the city in the early morning with colourful clouds floating in the sky, sailing along the river in a small boat full of poetic inspiration. The famous verses "Leaving Baidi in the morning,..." were thus composed and have been passed on for later generations.

WINE CUPS GAVE POETIC INSPIRATION

The night before we planned to leave, we followed the path taken by past poets and arrived at Yidou Gate to sit at one of the teahouses lining the steep steps. Each of us ordered a cup of tea and started to chat. Before we realized it was already midnight. Our two colleague photographers returned to our hotel to get their cameras, saying that they would stay here for the night. We had a great time drinking our tea and watching Kungfu video tapes. As the wind rose from the river we started to be frozen and decided to order a bottle of liquor. The photographers found several empty film cases and poured out a measure for each of us. The effects of the liquor immediately brought warmth to our bodies, the inspiration to compose poems came to us. Unfortunately, none of us had any real talent to form even a single verse.

Before day break, the photographers woke us up and urged

1. One can take tea while enjoying the beautiful scenery of Xiaoyaotai on Fengjie Pier. (by Shan Xiaogang)
2. Sedan chair excursions are a special tourist programme. (by Shan Xiaogang)
3. On Fengjie Pier hawkers have a unique way of peddling their food. (by Huang Yanhong)
4. A newly completed suspension bridge on the Caotang River, one of the Yangtse's tributaries. (by Shan Xiaogang)

us to go with them to take pictures on the opposite mountain. We hired a small boat and climbed up the mountain to capture scenes like "Morning Glow" and "Red Sky". However, the sunrise that morning was "substandard", not at all as magnificent as that in Li Bai's poem, and our photographers were quite disappointed.

MEDDLESOME MONK HUNG

We drove to Baiyan Mountain to visit several places of interest, one of which is Mengliang Staircase. A zigzagged line of holes dug into the cliff face, it is said that when Yang Jiye, a famous general in the Northern Song Dynasty, was killed his remains were buried half way up the mountain. His subordinate Meng Liang tried to steal his body back. Overnight he started to dig holes into the cliff face so that he could climb up the mountain. Just as he was about to succeed, he was seen by an old monk who cried in the imitation of a cockerel. Thinking that daybreak would soon come, Meng Liang gave up his attempt. Later, when he found out he had been deceived, he killed the meddlesome monk, hanging his body up-side-down on the cliff for others to curse. Not far from the Mengliang Staircase is a stalactite resembling a monk hanging over the cliff, even his navel is visible.

Another stalactite nearby, covered with wisteria, looks like a phoenix. The spring beside it is thus named Phoenix Spring.

Further forward is the well-known Chalk Wall. There are cliff carvings of various characters, the largest of which is about two metres tall, the smallest only the size of a finger. Of them, the most famous is the huge carving of the "Praise of the Song Emperor's Virtue" with 980 characters.

THROUGH QUTANG GORGE

Returning to our ferry tour we left Fengjie.

As we entered the Three Gorges, the wind rose uncomfortably, but nobody wanted to leave the packed deck, eager to feast their eyes on the beautiful landscape. The eight-kilometre-long Qutang Gorge is the shortest and narrowest but the most spectacular of the Three Gorges. Its narrowest section is only a few dozen metres wide with 1,000-metre peaks rising on both sides. The wild river is then suddenly squeezed even more into the narrow Kuimen Pass, where it becomes furious and roars on its eastward journey. The experience of braving the Kuimen Pass was special.

On the northern bank, close to the Thatched Hall, are two thick iron pillars standing on reefs, known as the ruins of the "Iron Lock Pass". In the Song Dynasty (960-1279) boat passage along the river was blocked by the iron pillars and chains. Soon the huge characters "Bellow Gorge" carved on a cliff came into sight. It is so called because once some "bellows" could be seen on the cliff, and were believed to have been used by the famous ancient carpenter Lu Ban. It was not until 1971 that two brave herb-collectors climbed up to find they were in fact suspended coffins. On the northern bank an ancient path can still be seen about a few dozen metres above the river along which boatmen towed their boats and merchants carried their goods.

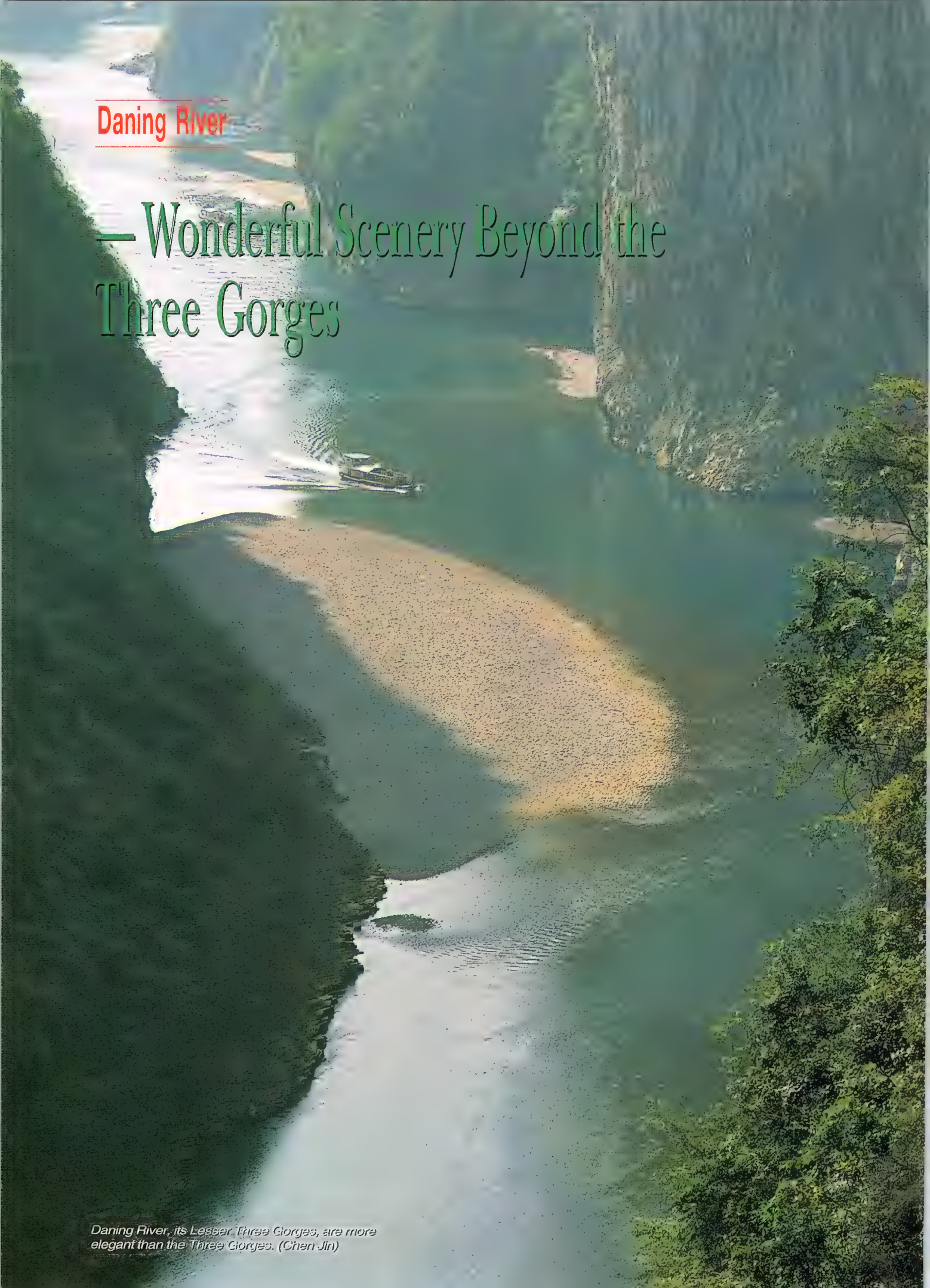
About 20 minutes later, our boat passed through the Qutang Gorge and the following Daxi Cultural site. New Stone-age pottery, stoneware, bone spears and needles unearthed there are of high archaeological value.

Nearby we came across, what are so called, Wrongly Positioned Mountain Gorge. Legend says that when Yu the Great, tamed the river, he left in haste, positioning the mountains wrongly. It is said there is a Lock-Dragon Pillar on the mountain, where the youngest sister of the heavenly Jade Emperor chained a dragon. Since it was some distance away, I gave up the intention to go and see, giving myself the excuse that it was probably only a legend.

Translated by M.Q.

Daning River

—Wonderful Scenery Beyond the Three Gorges



Daning River, its Lesser Three Gorges, are more elegant than the Three Gorges. (Chen Jin)

A perilous plank road along the Lesser Three Gorges (by Chen Jin)

大昌鎮
Dachang Town

飛雲洞
Flying Cloud Cave

船棺
Boat Coffins

赤壁摩天
Red-Wall Skyscraper

滴翠峽
Dicui Gorge

馬渡峽
Madu Gorge

馬渡河
(小小三峽)

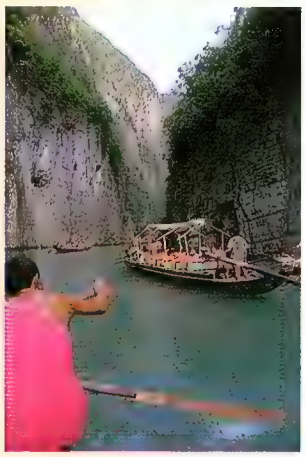
Madu River

(Smallest Three Gorges)

犀牛峽
Rhinoceros Gorge

秦王峽
Qinwang Gorge

Life jackets are compulsory while drifting through the Lesser Three Gorges. (by Bao Chengli)



登天峰
Dengtian Peak

綿羊崖
Sheep Cliff

天泉飛雨
Heavenly Spring and Flying Rain

摩崖佛像
Cliffside Buddhist Statues

仙蕉林
Xianjiaolin

水簾洞
Water Curtain Cave

雙龍鎮
Shuanglong Town

巴霧峽
Bawu Gorge

白蛇洞
White Snake Cave

懸棺
hanging coffins

觀音坐蓮台
Bodhisattva Sitting on Lotus

仙桃峰
Xiantao Peak

虎出
Huchu

回龍洞
Huilong Cave

馬歸山
Mount Magui

龍進
Longjin

猴子撈月
Monkey Fetching the Moon in the Water

烏龜灘
Tortoise Shoal

Daning River

熊貓洞
Panda Cave

龍門峽
Longmen Gorge

銀窩灘
Silver Nest Shoal

靈芝峰
Lingzhi Peak

青獅衛門
Black Lion Guarding the Gate

龍門
Dragon Gate

巫山
Wushan

陸遊洞
Lu You Cave

Daning River

The largest of the Yangtse's tributaries in the Three Gorges area, it flows through Wuxi and Wushan counties.

The Lesser Three Gorges along the Daning River are Longmen (Dragon Gate) Gorge, Bawu Gorge and Dicui (Green) Gorge. They are famous for their magnificent cliffs, perilous shoals and clear waters.

Longmen Gorge (3km) is more precipitous than Kuimen Pass. Ancient plank roads line both sides of the gorge. At its mouth is a rapid called Yinwozi (Silver Nest Shoal). Bawu Gorge (10km) has many strange rock formations and Mount Magui. Many hanging coffins belonging to the Ba people can be seen inserted into caves 400-metre-high. Dicui Gorge (20km) is the most beautiful and longest within the Lesser Three Gorges. It has forests and scenic spots, including Shuilian (Water Curtain) Cave, Buddhist carvings, ruins of ancient villages, Boat Coffins, Chibi Motian (Red-Wall Skyscraper) and Feiyun (Flying Cloud) Cave.

s here that the Daning joins the ngtse. (by Bao Chengli)

Madu River

Madu River is a confluence of the Pingding and Houxi rivers which enter Daning River at Dicui Gorge. Upriver, are the Smallest Three Gorges, extending 20 kilometres. Madu Gorge has numerous scenic spots such as God of Longevity Peak, Deer Turning Round and many other rock formations and Xiangxi Spring. At Qinwang Gorge, scenic spots include Yellow Dragon Across the River, Heavenly Bell and Happy Immortals, Fairy Greeting Visitors and Immortal Ox Playing Water. The third, Xiniu (Rhinoceros) Gorge, has its name coming from the rhinoceros-shaped rock formation. There is a 10-metre-high column called Tsunami Taming Needle. On Madu River, one can drift on a wooden raft or alternatively experience the excitement of shooting the rapids on a rubber dinghy.

大寧河

The Daning River originates in the southern slopes of the Daba Mountains. Its 250-kilometre causeway meanders along the Wuxi Stream, into the Wushan Mountains, bringing its clear waters into the Yangtse River as it reaches the Wuxia Gorge, and flows through the Lesser Three Gorges.

THE LESSER THREE GORGES

The Lesser Three Gorges on the Daning River usually refer to the last three gorges along the 50-kilometre section of the river between Dachang and Hekou. It is said there are another four gorges upstream from Dachang, each with its own distinctive charm. Dachang township is paved with green stone slabs, has wooden houses and people carry bamboo baskets on their back, keeping the ancient traditions of the Three Gorges area. Cruises along the Daning River set off from the Yanshan Wharf. We decided to take a newly introduced one-day trip including the first two of the Lesser Three Gorges and the first of the Smallest Three Gorges on the Madu River.

STEPPING ASHORE

Like the Qutang Gorge, the Dragon Gate Gorge extends about three kilometres and is the smallest but most majestic of the Lesser Three Gorges. Soon after the boat pulled away from the dock, it entered the mainstream of the Daning. The water became clearer and the hills on both sides grew greener; it were as if we were part of a poetic Chinese painting. Just as we were becoming mesmerized by the scenery, the voice of the guide came over the loudspeaker. Wearing a forced smile, she told us to disembark and join the boat further upstream as the water was too shallow to carry a loaded boat.

When we reboarded the boat we saw a bridge spanning the river between two towering peaks, making it the most dangerous bridge I have ever seen. Completed a few years ago, this Dragon Gate Bridge is now the most important landmark of the gorge. Like many other tourists, I found it difficult to pose myself in front of the bridge and had to be content with aiming my camera out of the window and taking a photo without myself in it. A fellow photographer tried to stand on a chair and was immediately yelled at. Coming up were the Black Lion Guarding the Gate, the Nine-Dragon Pillar, the Magic Plant Peak and the Silver Nest Shoal. Suddenly the loudspeaker bellowed again. "We are awfully sorry..." came the voice of the guide. We were sent ashore one more time. The water here was turbulent and looking back, we saw our boat enlisting all its power to force its way ahead.

AMUSING NAMES

Crossing the Tortoise Shoal, the scenic sites multiplied, with Monkey Fetching the Moon in the Water, Dragon Advancing, Arriving Tiger, Fairy Throwing the Embroidered Ball of Love

1. Around the shoals visitors search for the beautiful "Three Gorges" stones. (by Chen Jin)
2. In the rapids the boat is controlled with punting poles. (by Chan Yat Nin)

coming into view one after another. The 10-kilometre section of strange-looking rocks with their highly descriptive and attractive names – some a bit farfetched – gave a lot of pleasure to the passengers. A few young men from Beijing used their special humour and sharp tongue to make fun of the voice on the loudspeaker, drawing laughter from the rest on the boat.

Passing through the Bodhisattva Sitting on Lotus and White Snake Cave, we saw coffins placed on the high cliffs, in the unique ancient way of burial. The guide told us we would soon enter the third gorge. Upstream of the Sheep Cliff, the Madu River and Daning River split and we had the enjoyable experience of going through the Dicui Gorge.

HOME OF MONKEYS

As we were about to enter the Dicui or Green Gorge, the loudspeaker told us that "many monkeys live on the hills of this gorge". So saying, a group of monkeys appeared on both sides. More and more monkeys came into sight and our excitement grew. Apart from those darting about in the woods and on the cliffs, there were even a few who sat, unbelievably confident, on rocks only a few steps away, examining us just as intently as we were examing them. It seemed equally appropriate to use the line of Tang poet Li Bai "monkeys screaming along the banks of the Three Gorges of the Yangtse" to describe the Lesser Three Gorges, except these days monkeys do not scream.

THE THREE GORGE STONES

At the mouth of the Madu River, we had to disembark and climb onboard small boats hauled by men. In the shallow waters, dozens of small boats lined up, waiting for passengers. On a piece of open ground, many peddlers were hawking their goods, which ranged from bean-curd soup to mushrooms, to small handicraft items. The most interesting commodity are pebbles. Displayed by the peddlers in containers filled with water and shaken gently, these exquisite-looking pebbles had an especially charming appearance. Tourists could not resist the temptation to buy a few. There were some, however, who chose to crouch on the riverside searching carefully for their own beautiful pebbles, claiming these to be the most precious.

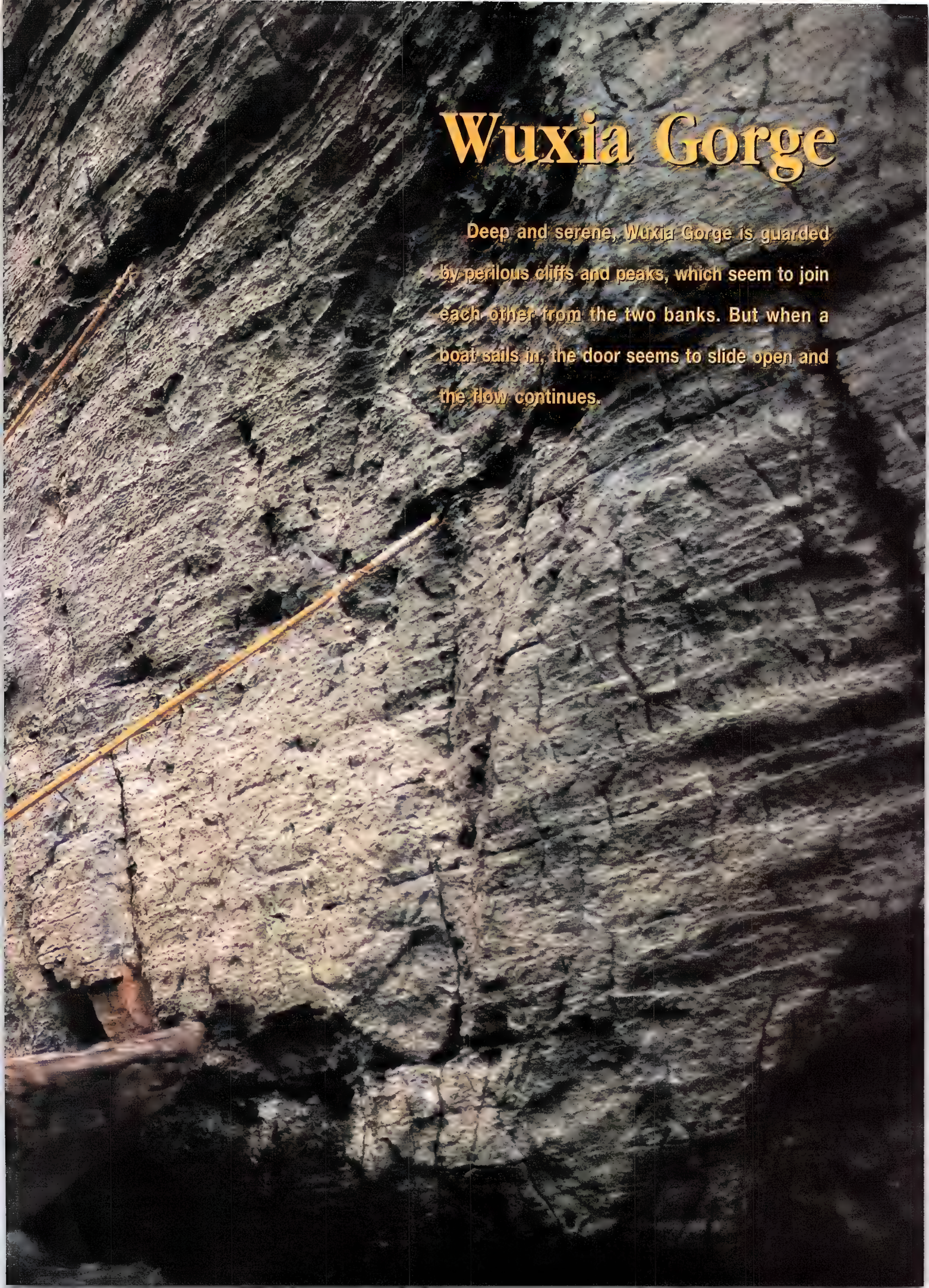
After spending time on the shore, we boarded a wooden boat. Compared with the Lesser Three Gorges, the Smallest Three Gorges had even clearer waters, narrower valleys and taller mountains. The first gorge is about five kilometres long and can only be passed slowly by boatmen pulling and pushing the small boats. These boatmen, employed by travel agencies, are paid a regular monthly wage, but their job is a hard one.

One boatman suddenly bent down and picked up a pebble. He held it over his head and said: "Fifty yuan!" We took a closer look at the fist-sized stone and found it was covered with beautiful, rarely seen patterns.

As we returned from the upper reaches of the first gorge, we discovered two young couples in the tour were missing. It turned out that they had rented two rubber boats for a rafting trip. The distance is not great but it required courage as the course is turbulant and difficult. Apparently, the girls had screamed as the men showed off their courage and skills. The rafts twirled, tossed and finally ran aground.... We eventually met up with them at Hekou (River Mouth). With a victorious look, both couples told us excitedly: "It's worth it! It's so exciting!"

Translated by Huang Youyi

Drifting along the Shennong Stream one can enjoy better scenery. (by Liu Jiaxiang)

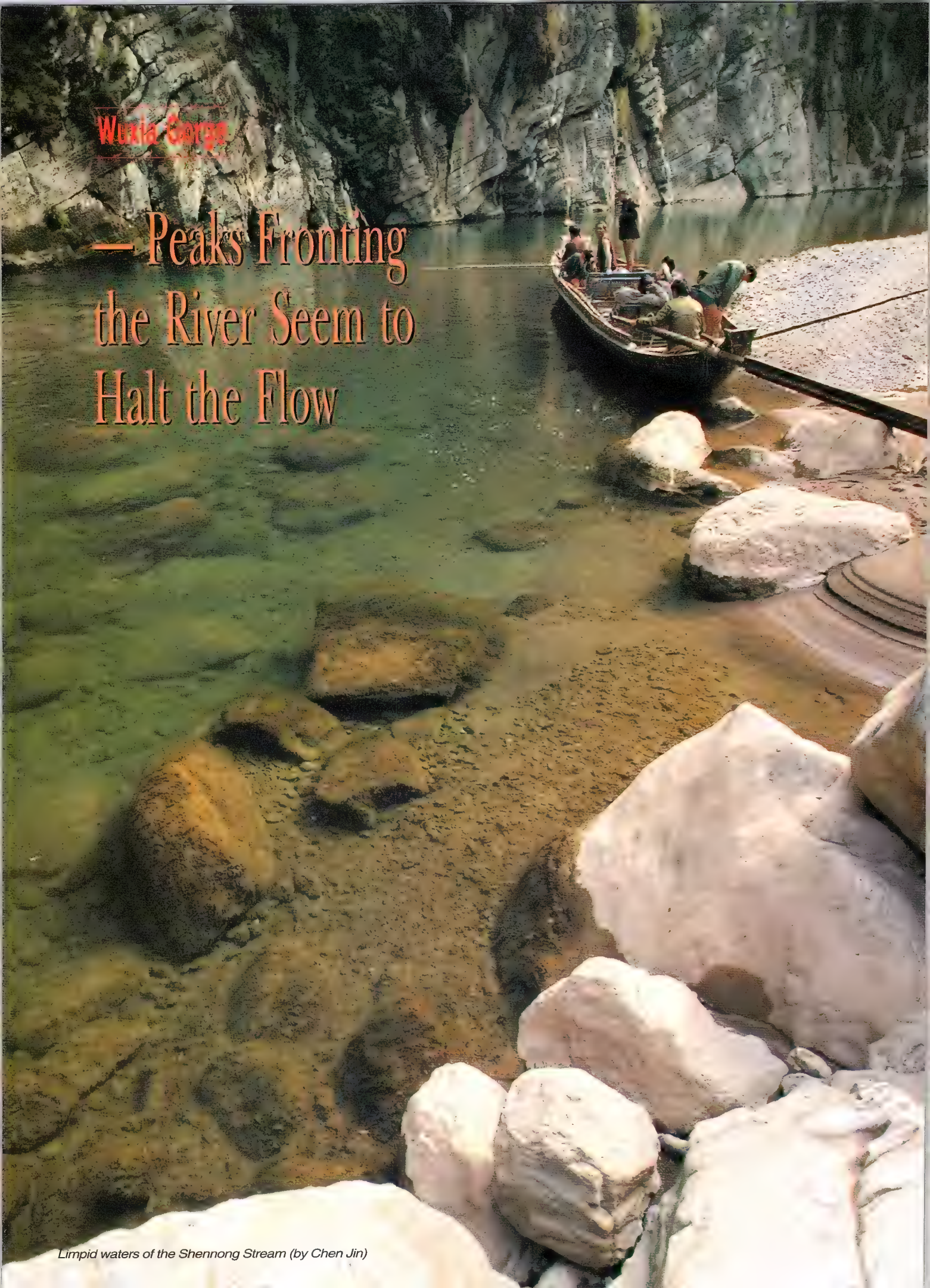


Wuxia Gorge

Deep and serene, Wuxia Gorge is guarded by perilous cliffs and peaks, which seem to join each other from the two banks. But when a boat sails in, the door seems to slide open and the flow continues.

Wuxia Gorge

— Peaks Fronting the River Seem to Halt the Flow



Limpid waters of the Shennong Stream (by Chen Jin)

Wuxia Gorge

After Qutang Gorge, the scenery changes to open plains until arriving at the Wuxia Gorge. It stretches from the mouth of Daning River in Mount Wushan to Guandukou, Badong. The gorge is the longest and most beautiful of the Three Gorges with many deep, tranquil valleys and vast volumes of water.

Wuxia Rock (by Chen Jin)

Peaks along Wuxia Gorge (by Chen Jin)

An ancient road for boat trackers (by Chen Jin)

12 Peaks on Mount Wushan

The most attractive within Wuxia Gorge are the famous 12 peaks on both sides of the Yangtse River. Shennü (Fairy) Peak in the north is the most favourite. As the name suggests, it is a rock formation shaped like a woman and legend has it that she can walk on the morning clouds and step on the rains at dusk.

ver boat drifting along the Shennong ream (by Shan Xiaogang)

Badong

Located on the south bank of the Yangtse River, it is the only county seat in this area without a city wall because of its natural topographical barrier.

Drifting – excitement and thrills (by Peng Zhenge)

Shennong Stream

Surrounded by mountains, its 60-kilometre length contains rapid torrents and whirlpools.

Mianzhu (Bamboo) Gorge

is surrounded by lush bamboo groves. At Yingwu (Parrot) Gorge, a huge rock blocks the river so that the current has to suddenly change direction. Scenic spots in the area include Immortal Seeing Visitors Off, Panda Rock and Crocodile Scrambles From the Cave.

巫峽

Wuxia Gorge

The Wuxia Gorge, also called Daxia (Grand Gorge), sits astride Sichuan and Hubei provinces and stretches for more than 40 kilometres from the mouth of the Daning River at Yanshan in the west to Guandukou at Badong in the east. As the most complete of all the Three Gorges, Wuxia consists of two sections: the west section known as Jinkui Yinjia (Gold Helmet and Silver Armour) Gorge; and the eastern section, the Tieguan (Iron Coffin) Gorge. The renowned 12-peak Wushan Mountains tower over the gorge, coupled with precipitous ravines. Frequent rain and perpetual mist form the fabled landscape known as Cloud and Rain at Wushan Mountains.

AMATEUR GUIDE

Boarding a boat at Wushan, we sailed east down the river and soon passed the mouth of the Daning River to enter the Wuxia Gorge.

Before long, the 12 peaks came into view, a fellow passenger who seemed to know everything about the gorge started talking. "You can see three peaks to the south and six to the north but there are three more peaks on the southern side which you can't see from the boat," he said. "The peak that lies astride the Shixi Stream like a dragon is called Denglong (Mounted Dragon) Peak," he went on. The Songluan (Pine-Covered) Peak derives its name from its vast expanse of pine tree forests. The name of Jiandao (Scissors) Peak speaks for itself, but it is also known as Jixian Peak, or Peak Where Celestial Beings Meet, because of the arrangement of its monoliths. The names of the Qunhe (Cranes) Peak and the Shengquan (Holy Spring) Peak are associated with the legends. In terms of reputation, however, none of the peaks can match the Shennü (Fairy) Peak. Legend has it that King Huai and King Xiang of Chu, father and son, happened to tryst the same fairy in their dreams.

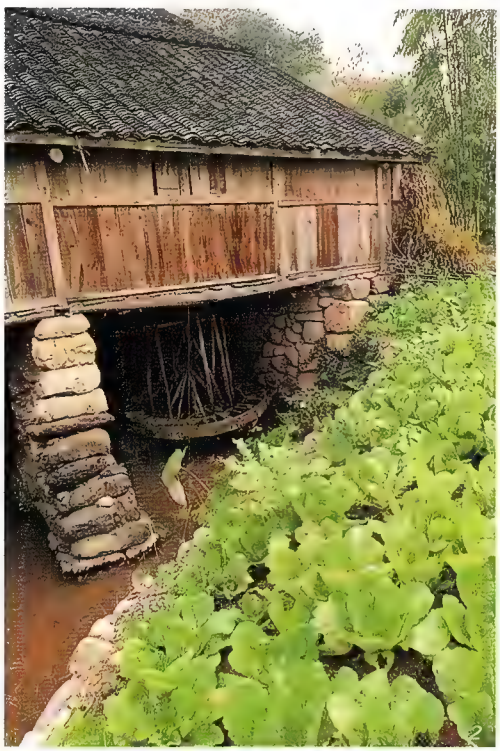
The vertical bluff below the Jixian Peak is inscribed with two lines of calligraphy in eulogy of the landscape. One of the lines reads, "Wuxia Gorge – the Jungle of Towering Mountains." The other line says, "Famous Peaks, Towering Elegance." The former is said to have been written by Zhuge Liang (style name Kong Ming), a celebrated strategist who served as the prime minister for the Kingdom of Shu during the Three Kingdoms Period. Hence the name of the bluff, "Kong Ming Tablet". Not far forward, we saw four huge characters carved in a perpendicular rock face rising from the border between Sichuan and Hubei provinces, which means, "Deep Gully that Keeps Chu and Shu Apart".

Sailing further down the river we saw the Iron Coffin Gorge, which is named after a colossal boulder on the northern bank in the shape of a coffin. Our cruise on the Wuxia Gorge came to an end as we sailed past the "iron coffin", when we entered the wide section called Xiangxi (Fragrant) Stream and reached the Guandukou.

DRIFTING UP THE SHENNONG

As soon as the boat glided out of the Wuxia Gorge and dropped anchor at Badong, we inquired about the Shennong (Divine Peasant) Stream. For 90 yuan each a local travel service offered to drive us to the Yezi (Leaf) Dam and sail us downstream to the Shennong Stream. We declined the offer. Trying to go the other way round, we hired a tiny wooden boat at Xirangkou where the Divine Peasant Stream empties itself into the Yangtse River.

As if the Divine Peasant were making his celestial power felt, the seething fury of the river gave everyone a shot of adrenaline the moment we reached the gorge. The place turned out to be a scaled-down version of the Three Gorges. The Longchuan (Dragon Boat) Gorge, less than six kilometres long, is the most truculent of the three gorges, with the river course narrowing and deepening considerably. In the foaming rapids the five-member boat crew worked in perfect coordination to pull the boat up the river, three brandishing punt-holes and two using hook-poles to push against the holes in the craggy bank. Where the water became too shallow they jumped into the river and dragged the boat with ropes slung across their shoulders. They were so busy running back and forth that we passengers were often at a loss to know what to do to help them. In between taking pictures, we took turns bailing water out of the boat with a wooden dustpan.



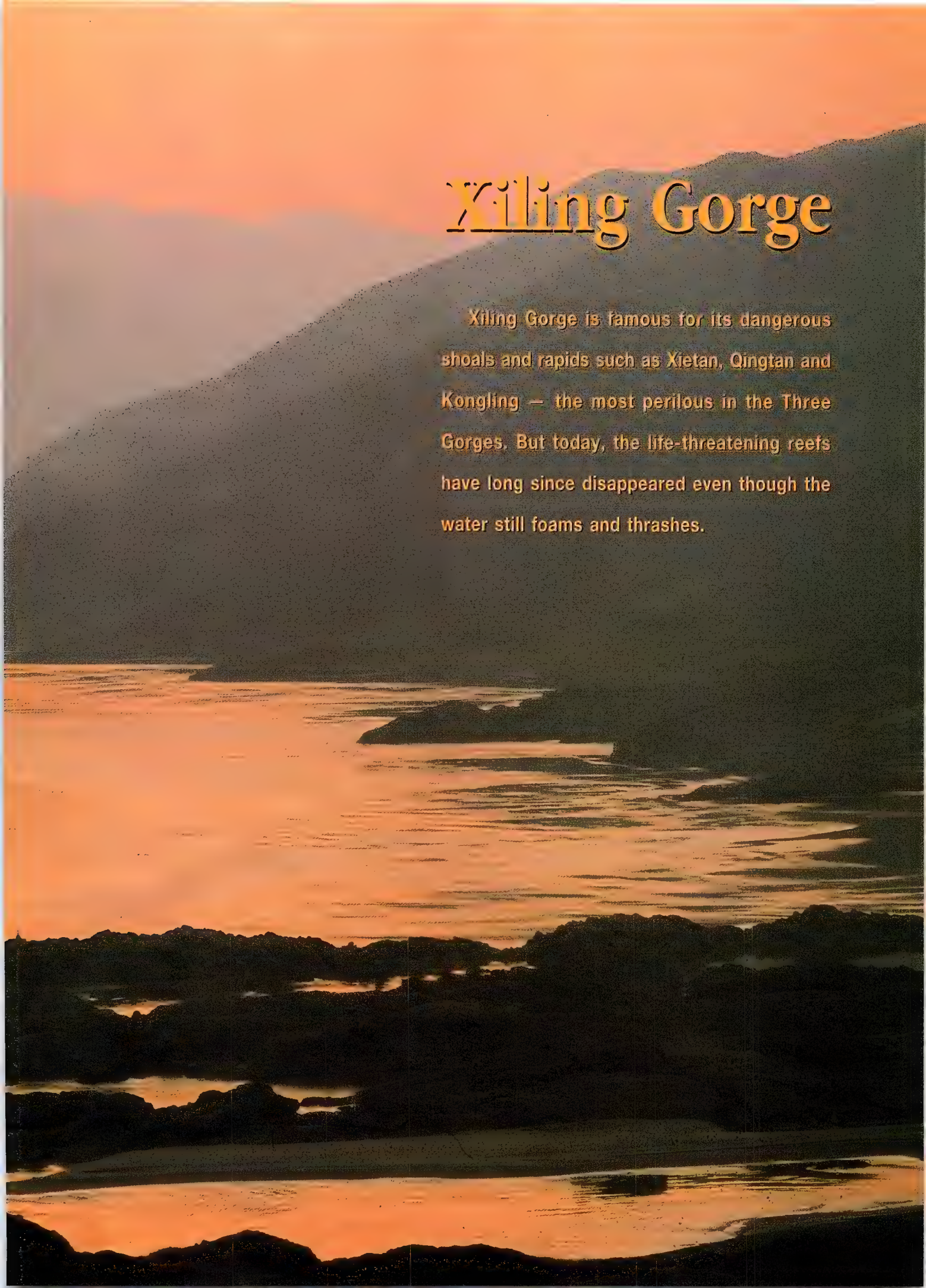
Our nervousness, caused by so much hustle and bustle, gradually wore down. When the crewmen were pulling the boat in the distance, we put down our cameras and pitched in with the punt-poles. But it was no mean feat. The pole had to be thrust into the river resolutely and forcefully, or else the tip of the pole would be tossed up by the surging rapids before it could hit the bottom. With trial and error I learnt how to handle the ropes. But when I tried to put more strength into my punting, I fell on my back because I had leant back too far! Before dusk fell, the boat reached the Dragon Boat Gorge and we stopped for the night.

We resumed our adventure before dawn break. It was raining. Soon our boat glided into the Yingwu (Parrot) Gorge, where the river widened and the flow became gentler but sailing was by no means smooth. There were times when the boat refused to budge an inch. At one point we reached a stalemate, the legs of the four crewmen pulling the ropes were already tired, the punt-hole in the hands of the 50-year-old man bent into a huge bow. So, with punt-poles in hand, we pushed against the rocky bottom with all our might in the hope that the crewmen could advance their positions....

At noontime, we stopped by the Yezi (Leaf) Dam to eat some noodles before commencing the last leg of our adventure, the Mianzhu (Bamboo) Gorge. The scenery is beautiful. Clusters of stalactites hang elegantly down the steep cliffs on both banks; at places the gorge becomes as narrow as four metres, and the sky is squeezed into mere slits. We wanted to take pictures, but heavens didn't allow us – it was raining cats and dogs.

At the other end of the Mianzhu Gorge a peasant-run hydroelectric power station blocked our course. Before we bade goodbye to the crewmen we posed for pictures together.

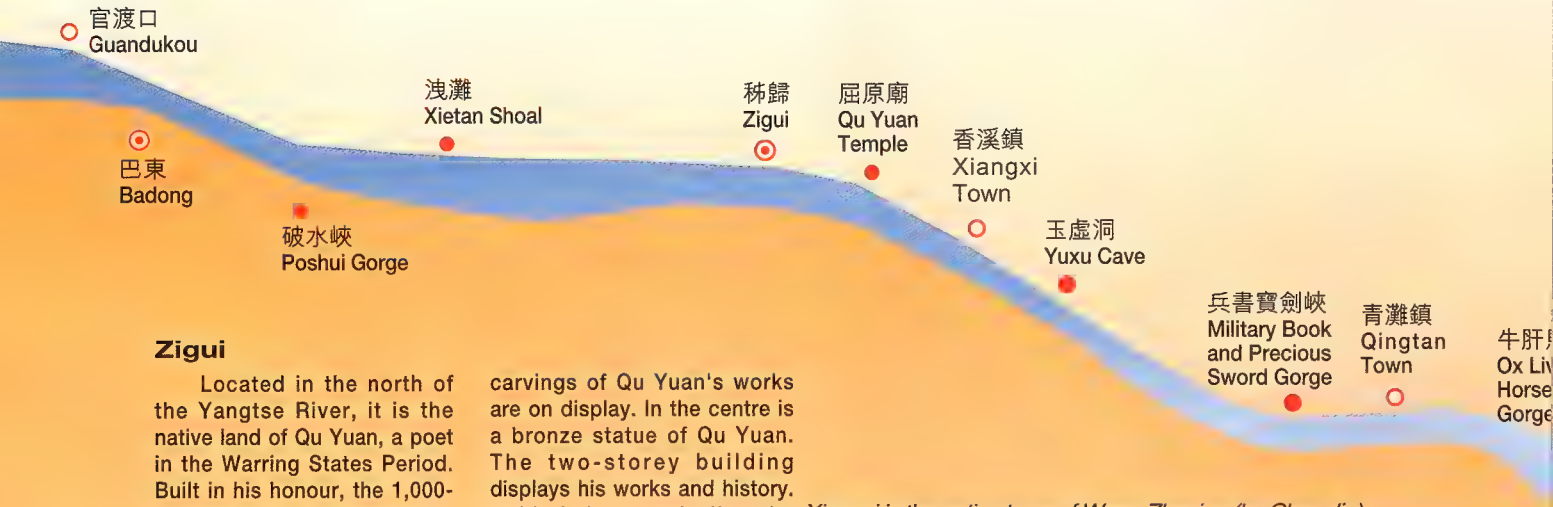
1. Among the 12 peaks in Wuxia Gorge the Shennü Peak is the most famous. (by Chen Jin)
2. The simple rural scenery on the banks of the Shennong Stream (by Chen Jin)
3. Qingshi Town in Wuxia Gorge (by Chen Jin)
4. Small towns along the banks remain their traditional appearance. (by Chen Jin)



Xiling Gorge

Xiling Gorge is famous for its dangerous shoals and rapids such as Xietan, Qingtan and Kongling — the most perilous in the Three Gorges. But today, the life-threatening reefs have long since disappeared even though the water still foams and thrashes.

西陵峽 Xiling Gorge — Shoals, Rapids and Gorges



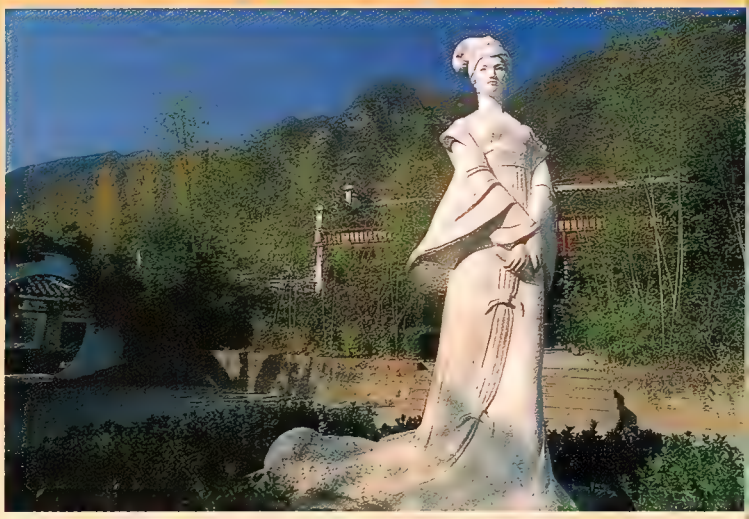
Zigui

Located in the north of the Yangtse River, it is the native land of Qu Yuan, a poet in the Warring States Period. Built in his honour, the 1,000-year-old Qu Yuan Temple is situated in Xiangjiaping, 1.5 kilometres east of Zigui town.

A traditional arch leads inside the temple where stone carvings of Qu Yuan's works are on display. In the centre is a bronze statue of Qu Yuan. The two-storey building displays his works and history. Behind the temple lies the coffin containing Qu Yuan's official hat and robe.

Home of Qu Yuan (by Huang Yanhong)

Xiangxi is the native town of Wang Zhaojun (by Chen Jin).



Xiling Gorge

Starting from the mouth of Xiangxi Stream and continuing eastwards to Nanjin Pass of Yichang, the 70-kilometre gorge is the longest of the Three Gorges.

Ox Liver and Horse Lung Gorge

Stretching four and a half-kilometres, the F-shaped mountains are hollow inside. The river flows through the cavern all the year round, creating many marvellous rock formations, in particular a two-tier rock which resembles an ox's liver and a horse's lung.

Huangling Temple

Sits on a piece of flat land on the southern bank of the Yellow Ox Gorge within the Xiling Gorge. Legend has it that while Yu the Great was harnessing the raging waters of the Three Gorges, he received help from a yellow ox, the incarnation of the God of the Earth. People offered sacrifices to the yellow ox in thanks and, to commemorate this event, built this temple.

Site of an ancient military castle (by Chen Jin)

Military Book and Precious Sword Gorge

The four-kilometre gorge at the mouth of the Xiling Gorge contains curiously-shaped rock formations. On the north bank one can see a box-like object placed high on a cliff – and it was said to be a military book left by Zhuge Liang. In fact, it is an ancient hanging coffin with a sword-like stalactite column below.

Nanjin Pass

Located at the Xialao Stream on the northern bank of the entrance to the Xiling Gorge it is considered the east gate of the Three Gorges, as is Kuimen at the west end. Water roars out of this bottle-neck and crashing down into the 2,200-metre-wide part of the river. A new statue of Zhang Fei beating a drum has been erected at Nanjin Pass. He was posted there to ensure that Liu Bei could take Yizhou smoothly. Here near Nanjin Pass, a drum tower was built.

Nanjin Pass (by Chen Jin)

灘
ling
il

三峽水庫壩址
Site of the Reservoir Dam

中寶島
Zhongbao Island

三斗坪
Sandouping

黃牛峽
Yellow Ox Gorge

黃陵廟
Huangling Temple

南津關
Nanjin Pass

葛洲壩
Gezhou Dam

宜昌
Yichang

三遊洞
Three Visits Cave

燈影峽
Lantern Shadow Gorge

黃貓峽
Yellow Cat Gorge

A dragon boat competition in Zigui (by Peng Zhenge)

Lantern Shadow Gorge

Also called Bright Moon Gorge, it has many beautiful scenes. The best-known is the Heavenly Pillar Peak, just opposite of Maya Mountain. The cliff of this mountain is so steep that it seems to have been cut by a knife. Only a few trees grow on the edge of the mountaintop.

西陵峽

Xiling Gorge

The Xiling Gorge, the longest of the Three Gorges, runs approximately 70 kilometres from Xiangxikou in Zigui County to Nanjin Pass in Yichang City. It is composed of the Bingshu Baojian (Military Book and Precious Sword), Niugan Mafei (Ox Liver and Horse Lung), Kongling and Dengying (Lantern Shadow) gorges, as well as the Qingtan, Xietan, Kongling and Yaocha rapids. The hair-raising switchbacks and fast rapids of the Xiling Gorge became a thing of the past when the completion of the Gezhou Dam raised the water table considerably.

We disembarked at the Pingyang Dam after our adventure to the Shennong Stream and hitched a ride on a tractor which brought us to Yanduhe Town for the night.

The following morning we caught the bus bound for Xingshan. The scenery along the way was very photogenic, but there was little opportunity to shoot pictures. As the bus drove up an ocean of clouds greeted us and the view became gorgeous. The two cameramen asked the bus driver to stop, pretending they wanted to relieve themselves. When the bus pulled to a stop, they clicked away until they were completely satisfied.

We learnt that the Gaolan Scenic Zone was close by. The contours of its five-kilometre mountain looks like a giant sleeping Buddha.

WANG ZHAOJUN'S BIRTHPLACE

Xingshan County was the birthplace of Wang Zhaojun, a concubine of the Han emperor who agreed to marry the Hun ruler in order to bring peace to the two nations. We made a detour to Mingfei (Famous Concubine) Village, or Zhaojun Village. The village is tucked away in picturesque scenery where tranquil Xiangxi Stream flows by like a sparkling silk ribbon. In Zhaojun's native residence, her dressing table, bedroom and the Nanmu Well from which she fetched water remained intact.

Legend has it that when Zhaojun came here, the local rivers surged in excitement, seeming to join the people in her welcoming ceremony. Zhaojun, being of a genteel and kind nature, simply said, "Don't bother." At her command the Xiangxi Stream instantly calmed down and became a peaceful strip of water.

QU YUAN'S TEMPLE HAS TO MOVE AGAIN

A few kilometres from the mouth of the Xiangxi Stream sits the county of Zigui, which is famous as being the birthplace of Qu Yuan. An imposing temple houses a museum in front of which is a bronze statue of Qu Yuan. It was said that this temple was moved here in 1975 to make room for the Gezhou Dam. It is a pity that the Three Gorges Reservoir will force it to move again.

The fifth day of the fifth lunar month is the memorial day for Qu Yuan's death. During the festival people all over China eat *Zongzi* (a pyramid-shaped dumpling made of glutinous rice wrapped in bamboo or reed leaves). In Qu Yuan's hometown, tourists are entertained by dragon boat races with songs sung to synchronize their rowing, as well as folk dances in ethnic Tujia style. What interests the visitors most, however, is the opportunity to participate in the dragon boat races.

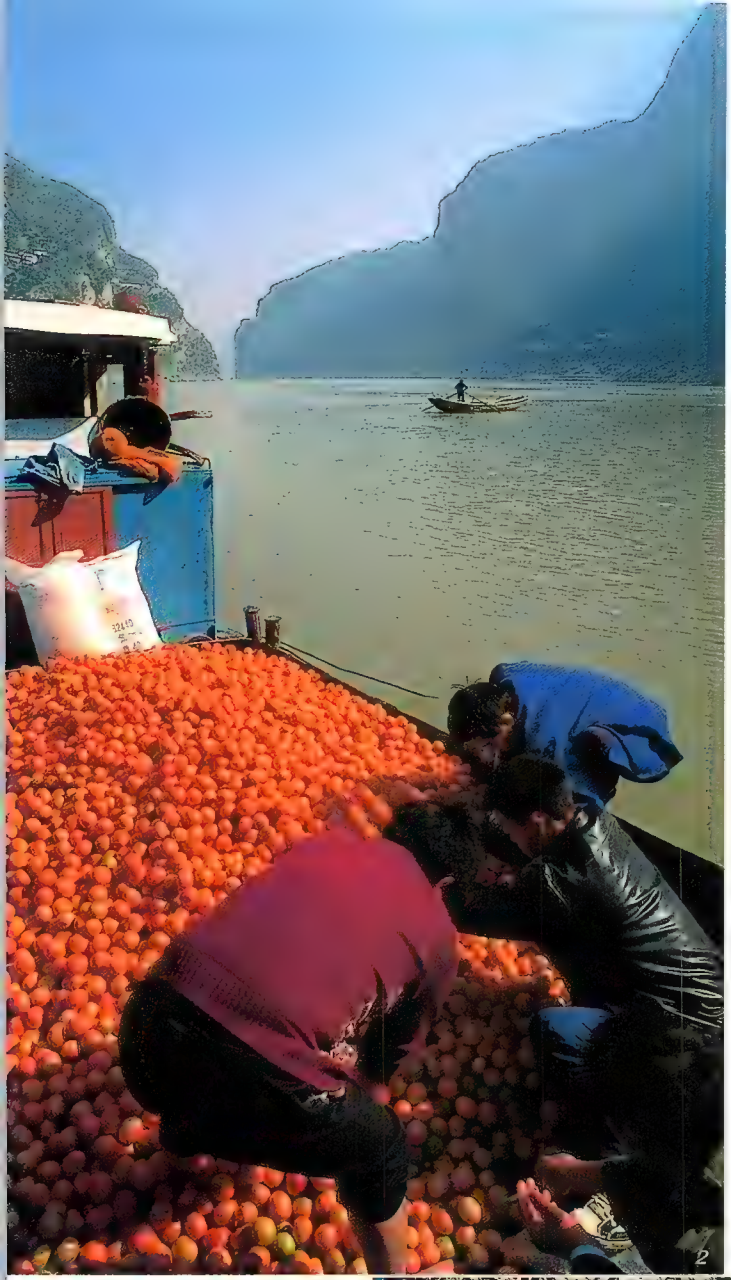
DANGEROUS SHOALS ARE NO MORE

On entering the Xiling Gorge, the gorge of Military Book and Precious Sword comes into sight. A number of monoliths lying on the four-kilometre range of bluffs on the northern bank take the shape of books, which are said to be the secret collection of Zhuge Liang of the Three Kingdom Period. Close to the edge of the water, above these "books" hovers a stone in the shape of a sword. The sight of these wonders made us marvel at nature's uncanny workmanship, and it filled our hearts with admiration for those men of letters who used their imagination to spin such beautiful tales about these exotic-looking crags.

Dangerous shoals used to cluster the Xiling Gorge at three-kilometre intervals. The Qingtan Shoal was one of them. Its furious, churning whirlpools were made all the more terrifying by the high incidence of shipwrecks in bygone days. The White-Bone Pagoda erected on the eastern shore stands as a convincing testimony to the heavy death toll.

As its name suggests, the Gorge of Ox Liver and Horse Lung features two cliffs on its bank, one looking like an ox's liver, the other like a horse's lung. In 1900, foreign gunboats made inroads into the Three Gorges. Opening fire with artillery, they damaged half of the "horse's lung"; but they soon paid a price for the savagery: one of their gunboats struck a hidden reef and capsized.

Before long, our boat reached the Kongling Shoal, whose perilous nature is well depicted in the old saying, "The Qingtan and Sanshitan shoals are nothing compared with the Kongling, which is truly the Gate to Hell." Statistics show that between 1900-1945, 17 major shipwrecks took place at the Kongling Shoal. The danger came from a grotesque-shaped reef which protrudes from the centre of the gorge. It is said that the more one wanted to avoid it the more likely one were to slam straight



into it – the only recourse was to drive head-on towards it and let the water flow take care of your fate. But the danger of the Kongling Shoal is no more, thanks to the removal of the hidden reefs and the rise of the water level after the Gezhou Dam was built.

Past the Kongling Shoal we sailed into the 30-kilometre Ghost's Ravine at Miaonan. The Three Gorges Project, which has become the focus of world attention because of its unprecedented scale, is being built nearby. The site was teeming with activity. Zhongbao Island, the only island in the Three Gorges, has disappeared. The Xiling Yangtse River Bridge has been built across the Yangtse and opened to traffic.

TANG PRIEST AND DISCIPLES

As we sailed on, the striking form of a temple emerged on the south bank. This is the Huangling Temple, the gorge's key scenic attraction known for its Hall of Yu the Great. On the mountain close by stands the "Stone Man Leading the Stone Ox by Its Nose". The mountain is thus called the Huangniu (Yellow Ox) Mountain, and the Huangling Temple at its foot was nicknamed Yellow Ox Temple.

The river narrowed considerably after our boat left the wide Miaonan section of the river, and the landscape gave way to range upon range of peaks in a hundred and one strange shapes. Particularly eye-catching are four monoliths which look like the four protagonists in the popular TV play *Journey to the West* – the Tang-dynasty priest Sanzang with three disciples, Monkey, Pig and Friar Sand. At sunset, the four crags become lifelike silhouettes of these four legendary figures. That is why the gorge is also known as Lantern Shadow or Yueming (Bright Moon) Gorge.

The boat sailed on. Soon it passed by the Sanyou (Three Visits) Cave and the Platform Where General Zhang Fei Beat the Drum, and we reached the Nanjin Pass at the other end of the Three Gorges. The river opened up upon entering the vast Jianghan Plain, and our adventure along the Three Gorges came to a triumphant end.

1. Thanks to navigation marks ships passing Xiling Gorge can avoid submerged rocks and dangerous shoals (by Peng Zhenge).
2. Zigui is famous for its mandarin orange farming (by Chen Jin).
3. Huge rocks scattered on Dengying Gorge (by Chen Jin)

宜昌 — 武漢 No Return for Eastward Current — from Yichang to Wuhan

The Mountain Ghost, a stone carving, stands at Yichang's entrance. (by Peng Zhenge)

Yichang lay in the near distance, but the Gezhou Dam blocked our way.

LOCK GATE LARGER THAN A BASKETBALL COURT

The dam site was once a small island in the Yangtse River, which, together with Xiba Island, divided the river into three. Before we reached the lock which was to take us down to the lower river level, all the passengers swamped to the deck to see the magnificent scene of the first dam on the Yangtse and to experience passing through the lock. The whole process took about 40 minutes. What surprised us most were the two lock gates which measured larger than a basketball court – probably this was the real "First Gate Under Heaven".

The industrial town of Yichang has become more important and busier since the Three Gorges Project got underway.

Most of the city's scenic spots can be found around the Nanjin Pass, such as the White Horse Cave, Three Visits Cave and Xialao Stream. Of them, the Three Visits Cave is the most famous. In the Tang Dynasty Bai Juyi and other two men of literature came to visit the cave after they were removed from official posts. Then the Su father and sons of the Song Dynasty followed.

Yichang is also an important hub of communications. Everyday, regular passenger boats sail to Fengjie, Chongqing and Wanxian, in addition to two passing-by passenger boats to Chongqing and Wuhan.

ANCIENT BATTLEFIELDS

Sailing about 100 kilometres downstream from Yichang, we arrived at Shashi, from where we visited Jingzhou, one of the three famous well-preserved ancient cities in China. The ancient walls and museum make a visit to the city worthwhile.

Sailing continuously eastward, we reached Yueyang by the Dongting Lake which is famous for the Yueyang Tower.

Further downstream, the characters "Chibi" on the cliff by the river became clearer. This is the famous ancient battle field during the Three Kingdoms Period, where Cao Cao of the State of Wei fought savage battles with Liu Bei of the State Shu and Sun Quan of the State Wu.

We soon arrived at Wuhan. It is a strategically important city with a long history, and has been the site of prefectural, provincial, regional and military governments throughout history. The Yangtse and Hanshui rivers join here, separating the city into Wuchang, Hanyang and Hankou towns. There are many places of interest in Wuhan. The Ancient Fiddle Platform, Guiyuan Temple, Qingchuan Pavilion and Huanghe (Yellow Crane) Tower are all in the city proper, but I was particularly interested in the East Lake which covers an area of more than 80 square kilometres. Scenic spots dot the whole lake area, and after two days I still felt I had not had enough.

Yichang

This industrial town is the key link between Sichuan and Hubei provinces and a clear demarcation line of the upper and middle sections of the Yangtse River. Enjoying this excellent location, it has an efficient transport system and is an important shipping port, hence it is regarded as the "Gateway to the Three Gorges".

People in Wuhan are fond of sleeping in the open air during hot summers. (by Xie Guo'an)

Chinese Sturgeon Exhibition Centre

The endangered Chinese sturgeon is considered the "King of the Fish" in the Yangtse River. The spawning, growth and reproduction of the sturgeon are presented in displays containing text, photos and models.

Huanghe Tower (by Huang Keqin)

Gezhou Dam

Located 2.3 kilometres from the Nanjin Pass, it is the mouth of the Xiling Gorge. Before entering Yichang, tourists are given the unique experience of seeing their vessel pass through the sluice gate. Since the water level on each side of the sluice gate differs greatly, ships from up-stream must pass the two gates where it remains until the water level drops to the same level of the lower stream.

宜昌
Yichang

猇亭
Xiaoting

枝江
Zhijiang

江陵
Jiangling

古荊州
Ancient Jingzhou

枝城
Zhicheng

沙市
Shashi

Hanshui River 漢水

武漢
Wuhan

洪湖
Honghu Lake

赤壁
Chibi

Puqi, or Chibi, is the site of an ancient battlefield of the Three Kingdoms Period. (by Huang Keqin)

The Three Kingdoms Museum in Zhicheng (by Xie Guanghui)

岳陽
Yueyang

洞庭湖
Dongting Lake

Jingzhou was once of military importance during the Three Kingdoms Period. (by Chen Jin)

Guiyuan Monastery

Built during the Ming and Qing dynasties, Guiyuan Monastery covers an area of 51,336 square metres. The main architecture includes a Buddhist Scripture Library, Mahavira Hall and an Arhat hall that houses statues of Buddha's disciples in an array of comical poses.

Wuhan

The capital of Hubei, it is located in the eastern part of the province. It is actually a conglomeration which were once three independent cities: Wuchang, Hanyang and Hankou. They are now called "The Three Wuhan Towns". It is a hinterland abundant with historical relics.

Huanghe Tower

Located on the top of Mount Sheshan in Wuchang, it is named after a legend that an immortal rode through the pavilion on the back of a yellow crane. One of the three most famous towers in China, it was first built during the Three Kingdoms period. The Qing-dynasty style Huanghe Pavilion was rebuilt in 1985.

East Lake Scenic Area

Combining over a dozen lakes, the area of East Lake covers a total area of 87 square kilometres, with its lakes covering 33 square kilometres, six times of the West Lake in Hangzhou.

Wuhan Yangtse River Bridge

The first along the Yangtse River, it joins Mount Sheshan in Wuchang and Mount Guishan in Hanyang. It is a road and rail double-decker bridge. The 1,100-metre-long bridge is hailed as an example of the country's modern architectural achievements.

The Yangtse River Port in Wuhan (by Peng Zhenge)

Qingchuan Pavilion

Located on Yugong (Yu's Deed) Rock, at the east foot of Mount Guishan, Hanyang. Huanghe Tower and Qingchuan Pavilion are the two main tourist attractions facing each other on the banks of the Yangtse River. The 16.7-metre-high pavilion was first built in the early Ming Dynasty and rebuilt in 1986 according to the Qing-dynasty style. Yuji Palace in its west was built to commemorate Yu the Great and Houji (God of Grains).

GUIDE TO THE THREE GORGES

1. TRANSPORTATION

Chongqing: Chongqing has regular flights from Beijing, Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Chengdu, Kunming, Wuhan and Hong Kong, and the three railway lines – Chengdu-Chongqing, Sichuan-Guizhou and Xiangfan-Chongqing link it with all areas of China. Chongqing is also the main passenger port on the upper reaches of the Yangtse River, and many boats sail regularly between Chongqing and Yichang, Wuhan, Nanjing and Shanghai along the Yangtse River, through the Three Gorges.

Three Gorges: Before you book a boat or buy a ticket for the Three Gorges tour, you would be well advised to know exactly which type of boat is being offered; a regular or tourist boat. Regular boats stop at main cities and towns along the river but only stop long enough for passengers to get on and off. Tourist boats stop at the places of interest, allowing tourists to enjoy themselves. In addition, there are upper-grade tourist boats for those who want to visit the Three Gorges comfortably in relatively inexpensive style.

Yichang: Waterways link Shashi, Yueyang and Wuhan in the east and the Three Gorges and Chongqing in the west; highways and railways connect Xiangfan, Wuhan and Zhangjiajie. Flights are available from Guangzhou and Changsha.

Wuhan: Lying at the cross-road of the Beijing-Guangzhou Railway and the Yangtse River, with frequent flights from other parts of the country. It is now the largest air, land and river communication hub in central China.

Two regular boats sail upstream from Wuhan everyday to tour the Three Gorges, with Chongqing as the destination. One departs at 9 a.m., the other at 6 p.m. There is another boat from Shanghai to Chongqing which passes Wuhan at 4 p.m.

2. ACCOMMODATION

Chongqing: Numerous hotels are available for tourists. Huixianlou Hotel is located downtown and is easy to find. In terms of location, Huixianlou Hotel, Chongqing Guesthouse, Chongqing Hotel and Yudu Hotel are all near Jiefangbei, conveniently situated for shopping, eating and transportation. The Renmin Hotel and Wudu Hotel are near Shangqing Temple, some distance from the commercial area. The Yangtse Holiday Inn has first-class facilities and better service but sits at Nanping on the southern bank of the Yangtse River.

Fengjie: Accommodation is plentiful. Many institutions have hostels but few are in good condition. Since Fengjie is destined to be submerged after the completion of the Three Gorge Project, no new hotels have been built in recent years. Among the old ones, the No.1 Hostel of the county government and Kuimen Hotel are better, located at 12 Gongguan Street, Yong'an Township and 16 Xianzheng Road, respectively. The rent of a double room is around RMB ¥50.

Wushan: There are a few hotels in town of which Wushan Guesthouse at 72 Jixian Street is the best equipped. Those who do not want to rent a room can share a double or triple room for RMB ¥40-45.

Zigui: Should you want to stop at Zigui, it is useful to know that there are two ferries: One is next to the Zigui County Town which serves the luxury tourist boats and boats for short-distances. Larger boats, like the Yangtse passenger boat, usually

anchor at Xiangxi, about seven kilometres downstream of Zigui. Most of the good international standard hotels for foreign tourists are in the western part of Zigui Town. Xiangxi has only simple inns.

Yichang: Hotels in the town are mostly two- or three-star with fairly high prices, in fact even rooms for domestic passengers are quite expensive.

Wuhan: Of the three towns of Wuhan, Hankou is the busiest, and is also the most convenient place to stay. Hotels for foreign tourists are high-grade, but there are also some popular downtown inns offering low rents.

3. FOOD

Chongqing: Known as a City of Food, there are many famous specialities such as Wang Duck, Li Duck and Zhengdong Dandan Noodles on the menus of old and well-known restaurants. If you have the chance, try the delicious genuine hot-pot at Small Swan Restaurant.

Yichang: Restaurants in town serve good food, but the stalls on Taozhu Road near Jiefang Road serve many local specialities including snacks, rice and noodles.

4. SHOPPING

Chongqing: The area around Jiefangbei has the largest department stores, food shops and bookstores of the city. If you are preparing to take the Three Gorges tour, buy food and drinks like cup noodles, dried beef, biscuits and fruits at the North District.

Three Gorges: The main local produce are fruits, medicinal herbs, Three Gorges pebbles and bambooware. The most unique are the Three Gorge pebbles with beautiful natural veins of colour. Orange growing is the main source of income for the local farmers.

Article by Huang Yanhong
Translated by M.Q.

1. Steamed pork, Sichuan style (by Peng Zhenge)
2. Three Gorges pebbles (by Chen Jin)
3. The luxurious "Splendid China" boat (by Shan Xiaogang)
4. A floating restaurant (by Shi Baoxiu)
5. Sweet mandarin oranges produced in Zigui (by Chen Jin)
6. Cable car crossing the Yangtse River in Chongqing (by Chan Yat Nin)
7. Sichuan bamboo products (by Chan Yat Nin)
8. "Wuchang Fish" from the East Lake of Wuhan (by Peng Zhenge)

After the Dam is Built...

– AN INTERVIEW ON THE THREE GORGES PROJECT

The Three Gorges Project has begun; the huge dam is to be built on Zhongbao Island in Sandouping Township, Yichang County, Hubei Province. The decision was first made in August 1958 at a meeting held at Beidaihe by late Premier Zhou Enlai.

With some doubts about the huge project, this correspondent interviewed Mr. Yang Jun, director of the Journalist Department of the Three Gorges Project Press.

Q: Why was Zhongbao Island chosen as the site of the huge dam?

A: At the section of Zhongbao Island, the river is wider, the mud layer at the river base is thinner and the geological structure is better. The most unique factor is that Zhongbao Island separates the Yangtse River into the main river and a side river, making construction easier.

Q: What progress has been made?

A: Since the project started on December 14, 1994, more than 10,000 workers have been working here day and night. By April 1996, we had dug 43 million cubic metres of earth and stone, backfilled 15 million cubic metres of earth and stone, and poured 1.35 million cubic metres of concrete. The main project and auxiliary projects have entered the period of normal process.

Q: Since the new dam is not far from the Gezhou Dam, will it affect the normal operations of the latter?

A: The Three Gorges Water Conservancy Project is a reverse regulating reservoir for the Gezhou Dam and therefore only benefits the electricity generation of the Gezhou Dam. In simple words, Gezhou Dam does not have a large storage capacity, and it releases as much water as it receives. The Three Gorges Dam is a high dam which will hold a reservoir to ensure normal electricity generation of Gezhou Dam.

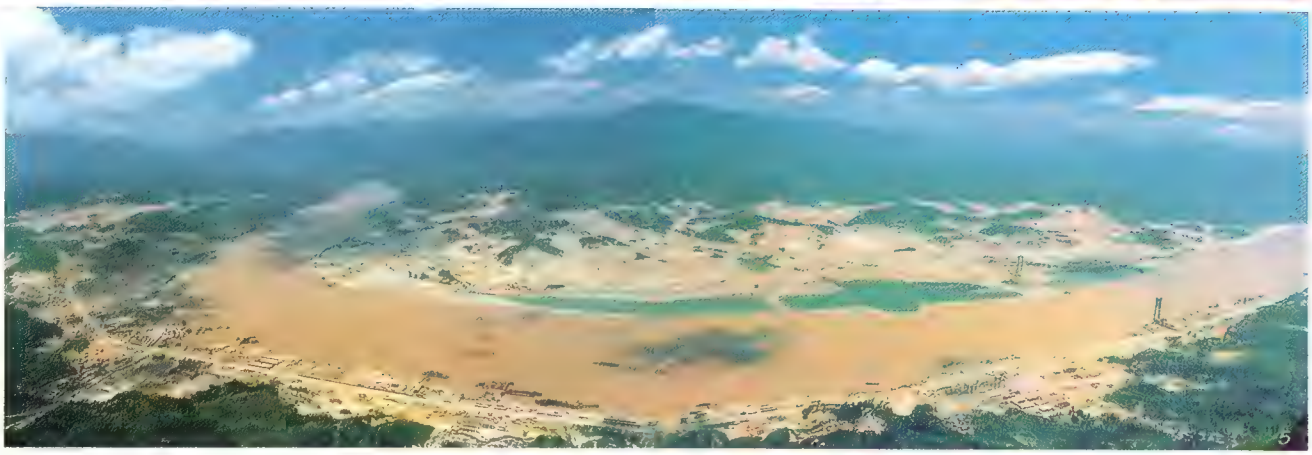
Q: Will construction, for instance during the closure of the dam, affect the normal navigation of the Yangtse River?

A: After repeated verification over the past decades the answer is clear, that it will not affect navigation. To ensure navigation during the construction, a canal will be dug to the south of the river. This canal will ensure a water flow of 25,000 cubic metres. At the same time, a temporary ship lock will be built while the permanent ship lock is under construction. When the main river is dammed in 1997, the temporary ship lock will work to ensure navigation during the entire construction until the permanent ship lock is put into operation in 2003.

Q: Will the original places of interest be affected after the completion of the dam?

A: After the completion of the dam, the normal height of the stored water will be 175 metres, and the water level at Sandouping will rise 100 metres. The county towns of Fengdu, Wanxian, Yunyang, Fengjie, Wushan, Badong and Zigui, the Baihe (White Crane) Rock, the Zhang Fei Temple, the Autumn Wind Pavilion, the Qu Yuan Temple, and the Chalk Wall will be submerged. In addition, the Ghost City in Fengdu will become Ghost Island, the Baidi City will become Baidi Island, and the water will come up to the mountain gate of the Stone Treasure Villa.

The state has laid down a set of measures to save places of



1. An artist's impression of the Three Gorges Dam Project (by Huang Zhengping)
2.The digging of a highway tunnel (by Huang Zhengping)
3.The vertical enclosure on the right bank, one of the key projects for the damming in 1997 (by Huang Zhengping)
4. The Xiling Yangtse River Bridge has a single span of 900 metres, the longest in China. (by Huang Zhengping)
5. Aerial shot of the 15.28-square-kilometre dam site (by Huang Zhengping)

interest. For instance, the White Crane Rock will be moved to another place or be turned into an under-water museum, the Qu Yuan Temple and Zhang Fei Temple will be rebuilt, and some cliff carvings within the gorges will be duplicated elsewhere....

Q: What do you think of the saying "farewell to the Three Gorges"?

A: In the Three Gorges, especially upriver of Wuxia, the gorges are narrow and the mountains 1,000-metre high. It will not make much difference if the water rises a few dozen metres. The main features of the gorges will not change much. We may say that the Three Gorges Project is not a sacrifice of the Three Gorges sights.

Q: What benefits will the Three Gorges Project bring us?

A: The Three Gorges Project will bring us tremendous all-round benefits such as flood control, electricity generation, navigation, cultivation, tourism, ecological protection, environmental improvement, migration and local development, channelling water from the south to the north, and water conservation. Among them, flood control, electricity generation and navigation are the most outstanding benefits. Even catastrophic floods will be put under control to ensure safety at the middle and lower reaches. The total volume of electricity generation by this dam and the Gezhou Dam will reach 100 billion kwh annually. Since all the dangerous shoals will be submerged, the navigation capacity of the Yangtse River as a whole will also be greatly raised....

Q: Some people say that even the people in Beijing will benefit from the Three Gorges Project. Is that so?

A: This may refer to the benefits brought by the central waterway, which will send water from the south to the north. When the dam starts holding water, the Yangtse water will flow backward from Xiangxi Stream at Xingshan, through Shennongjia, to Danjiangkou Reservoir, and finally enter the central trunk canal leading to Yuyuantan Lake in Beijing. This will relieve the shortage of water in Beijing and other places along the canal.

Article by Huang Yanhong
Translated by M. Q.

廣東省絲綢進出口（集團）公司

Guangdong Silk Imp. & Exp. Corp. (Group)

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Homes on the Vast Land of China

To live inside a house is the common wish of all people. Only then can one get feeling of being at home and finding oneself safe and stable. In a country with a long civilization and a vast territory such as China, a diversity of houses can be found in different regions. For instance, people in the north love to use wood because it is warm; people in the Central Plains like adobe buildings; inhabitants of the loess plateau simply dig cave dwellings out of mountain slopes, while people in the south, where there is heavy rainfall, just set up thatched cottages when they are short of bricks and tiles. The variety of styles shows the uniqueness of the different cultures and customs of different regions.

With the development of a materialistic civilization, new, modern tower blocks are replacing old houses. But it is still not difficult for those wishing to seek out the tranquil life and ancient customs to find many dwellings that still maintain the characteristics of traditional Chinese architecture. If you journey to the mountain areas, grasslands or remote countryside devoid of metropolitan glamour, you will be pleasantly surprised.

Text by Shu Yuancheng
Translated by Xiong Zhenru

FARMERS' NEW HOUSES

(Photo by Wang Jingfang)

Morning mist rises slowly, like a veil, from the small river and fields, encircling newly-built farmer houses in the village. The morning sunlight is very soft. Through the exquisite work of the cameraman, the houses in the distance are bathed in light and become the focus of the whole picture, while the shaded fields and trees in the forefront serving as a foil to enhance the atmosphere of the whole composition.

A SMALL MOUNTAIN VILLAGE

(Photo by Xia Bihui)

Generally, people avoid taking photos in cloudy weather, but this small village is an exception. Under scattered light, the patches of colour sharply contrast one another while forming a graphic whole. The golden fields make the picture come alive, the green woods give a strong sense of tranquillity, while the strangely coloured cottage roofs play an exquisite role of moderation.

DWELLING CAVES IN WINTER MORNING

(Photo by Luo Gang)

No doubt, morning is the best time to take photos. Here the photographer has chosen an ideal height to focus the picture, so that the visual effect is very far-reaching. The frozen winding river runs like a delicate curved line through the picture, suggesting that people are resting and recuperating during a slack season.

THE NOMADIC TRIBE

(Photo by Lin Hu)

While beautiful pastureland providing a canvas for a good picture, the people and animals bring life to the scene. The art of adverse photography used here not only sets the grazing horses and tents in clear relief but portrays the vast land and boundless sky to the minutest detail in a rich variety of layers.

The *Primitive* Paper-Cut Totem of Yelang

Paper-cutting is an ancient folk art. The paper-cut artists of Guizhou, while continuing their own traditions, have absorbed into their work the unique costumes and local operas of neighbouring minority nationalities. Influenced by mythical gods, legends and primitive totems their designs symbolize the primitive simplicity, depth and profoundness of the Yunnan-Guizhou Plateau in terms of form, content and composition. These paper-cuts bearing the strong character of the ancient Yelang totem are also called "Yelang Paper-Cut".

Generally, traditional folk paper-cuts use a single colour employing the techniques of rough cutting to give it a concrete base, then deep cutting and engraving is used to polish up the finer details. However, by using paper of different colours, the Yelang paper-cut is more pungent and bold in artistic style, emphasizing sharp contrasts between blocks of colour and base colours. It seeks to use stylistic and varied knife work together with vigorous, delicate lines. In design, it ingeniously uses both bold exaggeration and novel composition to show the life style of the plateau people. It uses highly abstract symbolism to give the viewer food for thought, revealing the artistic charm of the ancient totem on the Yunnan-Guizhou Plateau. Perhaps that is why Yelang paper-cuts hold a strong sense of mystery.

Photos & Article by Wang Dongyou
Paper-Cuts by Liu Qiying
Translated by Xiong Zhenru

◀ WARRIOR

Red and black are used to show both the form and content of the spirit of the nation in antiquity, portraying Man's solemn and stirring struggle with Nature.

◀ THE SUN, THE MOON AND PEOPLE

The colours of blue and red suggest the close relationship between Man and Nature.The sun and moon hang high in the sky with Man below on earth, showing the intrinsic spirit of people with nature, and the irresistible force they have on each other.

▶ IN THE SUNSHINE

Sunshine, little birds and Miao girls seem to form a melody of spring.

▲ THE NUO DANCE

Ancient Yelang warriors wield swords and spears to drive away evil spirits, revealing the wildness of the myth in remote antiquity.

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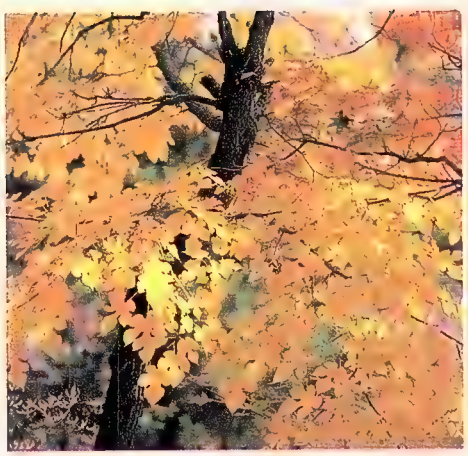


The Mystery of Mount Haitang

遼寧省阜新蒙古族自治縣境內的

海棠山的神秘，首先在於它的

岩壁造像，數量多、面積廣，最大的有近5米高，

最小的也有0.16米……

Mount Haitang, or Crab Apple Mountain, is the transliteration of a Mongolian word meaning a battlement or beacon tower. Located in Fuxin Mongolian Autonomous County in Liaoning Province, the mountain is noted for its beautiful natural scenery of ancient trees, weird rocks and bubbling springs. In particular, it is shrouded in mystery as many images related to Tibetan Buddhism have been carved onto the protruding rocks of the mountain along with many sites of ancient temples and monasteries.

IMAGES ON ROCKS

It is a mystery why as many as 200 Buddhist images have been carved on exposed rocks scattered over an area of nearly two square kilometres on Crab Apple Mountain. More than 30 of them are over three metres tall, the largest is as tall as five metres, the smallest only 0.16 metre.

The images range in size, position, and number according to the shape of the rocks. Thus carvings can be found on a single tall, small or squarish rock, or in groups of rocks. Even the most exposed rocks have been carved.

Touring the mountain is like visiting a museum of Buddhist sculptures. Wherever there are rocks, there are Buddhist images. How the work was accomplished on such a gigantic scale is a miracle even by modern standards.

A large number relate to Tibetan Buddhism. More than half the known figures of Tibetan Buddhism can be found, including Tsongkapa, Milhariba, Dalai, the Vajra of Great Strength and Virtue, Devil-Chasing Guardian, White Soul-Saving Mother, Green Soul-Saving Mother, Heavenly Mother of Auspiciousness, Lofty Master Benzun, Heaven-Traversing Mother and Truth-Protecting Gods. Some of these figures are duplicated in several places.

ARTISTIC STYLE

The image of the Great Master Tsongkapa was carved on the highest rock, in a perfect position surrounded by green pines and many other strangely shaped rocks. To its north lies the Mountain of Lama's Cave (where a lama is said to have lived). To its south is the Temple of Universal Peace. The rock overlooks the surrounding mountains and carved rocks on

The image of Sakyamuni in a principle niche

Crab Apple Mountain and is the first to see the sunrise. The sculptors had intentionally carved the image of Tsongkapa here because of his high position in Tibetan Buddhism.

To its east is a huge rock, known as the Mountain-Protecting Rock, on which are carved nine Buddhist images, most of them related to Tibetan Buddhism. Among them, are Tsongkapa and the Devil-Chasing Guardian.

The images of Buddha, Bodhisattvas and other figures relate to Han-Buddhism. All the images were executed in a mixture of Han and Tibetan style, which manifests the cultural integration and unity of ethnic groups. The principal image of Sakyamuni is surrounded by a great number of images related to Tibetan Buddhism. Even the six-word mystical incantation was carved in Tibetan on a cliff face close by. It is a mystery why so many Tibetan Buddhism carvings were created in such a distinctive style among the Han people in Northeast China so far from the Qinghai-Tibetan Plateau where Tibetan Buddhism originated.

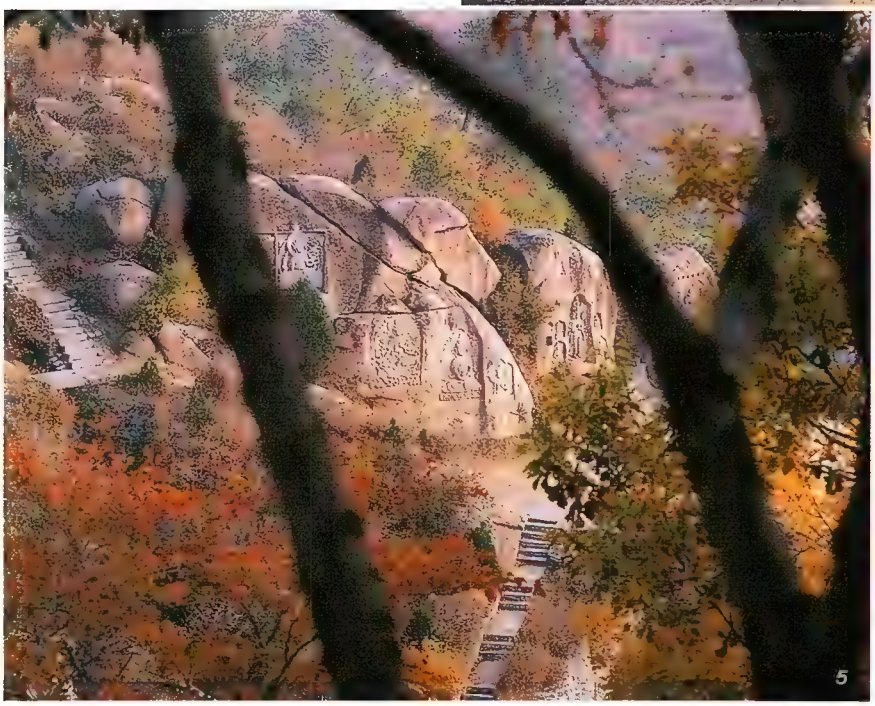
THE THIRD DALAI

The most outstanding and realistically rendered image is that of Sakyamuni carved with his right hand resting on his knee, and his left hand holding a bowl. He wears a crown, an embroidered robe and a skirt, with a circular sword hanging in front of his chest. As he sits on the lotus seat, his contenance is serene and dignified as if meditating the Buddhist truth in perfect silence or smiling in peaceful sleep. The carving required superb skill to produce a strong three-dimensional effect. The style of the carvings shows not only the characteristics of late-Tang-period sculptural art, but also the artistic features of the ancient Greek and Roman. Some of the images, the image of the Third Dalai, for example, were embellished or painted with colour. After more than 200 years of exposure to the sun and wind, the colour is still as fresh as new. This mystery, too, has attracted the attention of specialists.

Of course, the main mystery is why, and when, were the temples and monasteries built on the mountain.

Photos & Article by Du Dianwen

1.The painted image of the Third Dalai remains as bright as ever, even after 200 years of exposure to the sun and wind.
2.Mount Haitang is noted for its beautiful natural scenery of ancient trees, weird rocks and bubbling springs.
3.Some of the images are carved on exposed mountain rocks.
4.The images were carved according to the shape of the rocks.
5.Images of Tibetan Buddhism are carved everywhere.



Tips for Mount Haitang

Mount Haitang, a section of the Yiwulü Mountains, stretches 4.8 kilometres from south to north. It is three kilometres wide with its main peak rising 715.4 metres above sea level.

The mountain's scenery is comparable with Mount Huangshan, Anhui Province. It is also similar to Mount Taishan in Shandong in terms of rock formations. Its rivers and streams make it an ideal tourist spot for natural scenery.

Located 40 kilometres from Fuxin City, Liaoning Province, one can reach Mount Haitang by train from Shenyang, or Jinzhou alighting at Fuxin, then take a mini bus. It takes around one hour to arrive at the foot of the mountain.

Martin Yan in Shanghai

One late afternoon we drove from Hongqiao Airport into Shanghai to find the weather hot and sultry. It were as if every pore of the city breathed heat. Behind a stone archway I saw residents of an old-fashioned hutong sprinkling water on the ground to cool it down. Some families had moved their tables and chairs out into the streets and were having supper right in the open. Senior citizens cooled themselves with fans while playing chess or chit-chatting on street corners. This unique scene has long been a hallmark of summer life in Shanghai.

As our car entered Nanjing Road, the city blazed with a riot of neon lights. Soon we arrived at the Bund, known as Paris of the East. As I strolled along the long river bank I saw a cluster of high-rise in diverse architectural styles. Erected by foreigners in the 1920s and 1930s these Greek, Roman, British, Spanish, French, American, Russian and Japanese buildings gave the city an outlandish allure.

FILMING IN PEACE HOTEL

This feeling of outlandishness intensified as we stepped into the Peace Hotel

1. Martin Yan with his TV viewers in Shanghai
2. Martin Yan has a keen interest in antiques.

built in 1928 by a Jew named Cathay. We entered the lounge bar to be welcomed by six veteran musicians playing sentimental Jazz music dating back to the 1930s and 1940s. In the dim light of an old-fashioned chandelier we found the bar stocked with all the famous beverages from around the world. The patrons were mostly foreigners. Sitting there, I felt as though I had stepped back in time to the 1940s.

Martin Yan, the American TV cook show host, was sitting on a bar stool with a highball glass in his hand. Speaking in English, he was opening a new episode of his TV programme "Travel in Shanghai". In no time the foreign patrons in the bar recognized him. Some of them started talking amongst themselves; some nodded smilingly at the TV star; and some stepped forward to say hello to him. Mr. Yan told me that back in the United States his Chinese cooking programme "Yan Can Cook" has gained such popularity that whenever he appears in a restaurant he tends to be mobbed by those curious about what he eats. He seldom eats in a restaurant, but when he does, in most cases he chooses a quiet corner with his back to the room. Lack of privacy is the price a celebrity has to pay.

OLD RESTAURANT AT CITY GOD'S TEMPLE

Nowhere else in China is the Western cultural influence more keenly felt than in Shanghai. Orthodox French dishes and traditional Russian bread are still served in the city, but most dwellers prefer to stick to the local cuisine based on fish, shrimps, crabs, eels and fresh vegetables. Shanghai cuisine has drawn heavily from the culinary styles of neighbouring Jiangsu, Zhejiang and Anhui provinces. Different cooking styles are applied to different ingredients to preserve the original flavour and nutrition. No effort is spared to produce dishes that are tender and sweet, appetizing in both taste and smell. Famous Shanghai dishes include bamboo shoots stewed with fresh and salted pork, soyabean soup laced with tender meat slices, shrimp meat cooked with shark's lips, stir-fried meat and beancurd, sliced boiled pork, and red-cooked silver carp.

The City God's Temple is a showcase of Shanghainese dishes. Together with friends of the Shanghai Culinary Association I visited the temple's Old Restaurant. Known in the early years as Rongshun Restaurant, it was opened during the Tongzhi Reign of the Qing Dynasty. This restaurant is famous for its Eight-Treasure Duck. To prepare this dish, well-grown ducks are dressed and stuffed with lotus seeds from Hunan Province, ham, preserved shrimp meat and mushroom, glutinous rice, and a variety of spices. The duck is then steamed until the flavours of the various ingredients mingle and the meat is well cooked. When the dish is served, the entire dining room is filled with an alluring aroma, and the dish tastes both rich and tender. The Old Restaurant is also famed for its casserole of pig's tripe and chitterlings, which are mixed with mashed fermented grain before being steamed. This dish, yummy beyond description, never fails to fill the dining room with a savoury fragrance.

NANXIANG - STYLE STUFFED BUNS

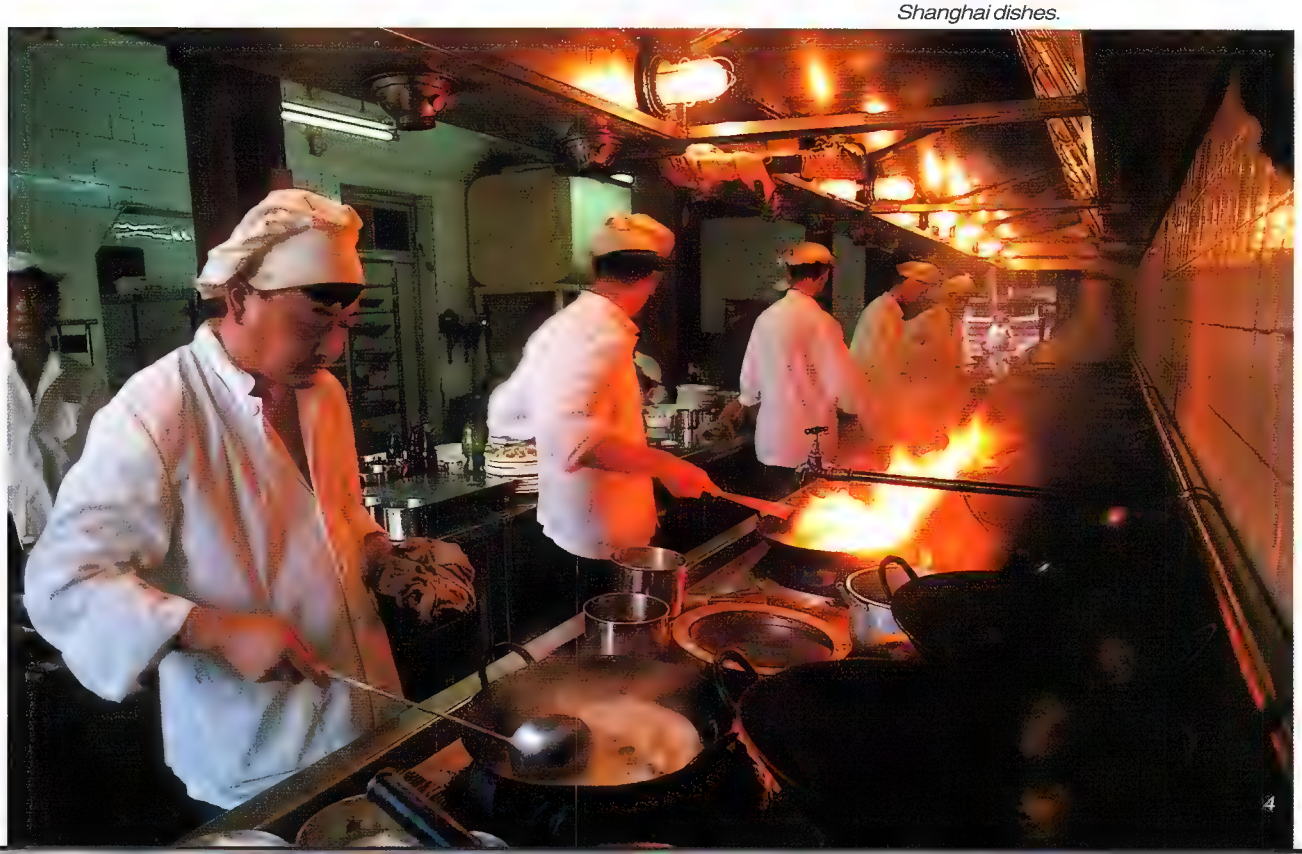
Having had our fill of dainty morsels at the Old Restaurant, we stopped over at Lübolang (Green-Wave Corridor) Restaurant situated at the other end of a zigzag bridge in the City God's Temple. Housed in a pavilion the restaurant started making various light refreshments for banquets and pleasure-boats in the Ming Dynasty. Its refreshments are known for their lifelike images – flying birds, wild animals, melons, vegetables, flowers and fruits – they are served as both palatable food and *objets d'art*. Among the better-known pastries are flaky cakes stuffed with three kinds of sliced food, steamed dumplings in the shape of a phoenix's tail, steamed tiny buns stuffed with shrimp meat. But what impressed me the most were the Nanxiang-style steamed buns, known for their wafer thin wrapping, generous stuffing, juiciness and delectable taste. The wrappings are made with a fine-flour dough, and the succulent stuffing contains choice pork mixed with meat jelly. The steamed bun looks transparent and takes on the shape of a tiny pagoda. It tastes better when eaten together with sliced ginger and vinegar. When crabs are in season in autumn, the Nanxiang steamed buns become even more nectarous as they are stuffed with crab meat. When the buns have been steamed, they have to be turned upside down immediately so that they don't stick to the bottom of the steamer. When you eat such a bun, it is advisable to take a tiny bite to begin with and then suck the juice dry from the tiny hole before popping the entire bun into your mouth – the idea is to avoid the awkwardness that might result from a clumsy bite into the steaming bun.

Photos and Article by Xie Guanghui
Translated by Ling Yuan

For Your Reference

Apart from the City God's Temple, there are three streets in Shanghai lined with restaurants serving a good variety of local delicacies. The Gourmet Street in Yunnan Road features a cluster of food stalls open from late afternoon to 11 p.m. – with fairly low prices. Zhapu Road south of the Suzhou River is strewn with posh restaurants which serve day and night, but the prices there are relatively more expensive. Somewhere in between these two streets, in terms of price, is the restaurant market at Huanghe Road.

1. At the Boshi Teahouse, Martin Yan nurses a cup of tea with Xu Yulan, a famous Shaoxing opera star in Shanghai.
2. The Lübolang Restaurant is famed for its tiny steamed buns.
3. Buildings in the Shikumen residential quarter are distinctive for their Shanghai-style architecture.
4. Chefs in the Old Restaurant prepare Shanghai dishes.



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SINOCHEM JIANGSU is an import and export corporation specializing in chemicals and petroleum products. Operating directly under SINOCHEM head office in Beijing, with 19 business and functional departments and 10 subsidiaries in the major cities of Jiangsu Province, the corporation practises an overall control over their plan, finance and business. In 1991, SINOCHEM JIANGSU won the title as a second class enterprise of the State. In 1995, it earned a total of USD190 million of foreign exchange in export, topping a list of export exchange earners per staff member in SINOCHEM.

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SINOCHEM JIANGSU mends its pace toward internationalization, cong lomeration and industrialization concurrently in expanding its export volume. With subsidiary companies set up successively in Shenzhen, Beihai, Hainan, Shanghai and Zhangjiagang, it has also established representative office in many countries and regions such as Thai Land, Germany and Hongkong.

SINOCHEM JIANGSU is advancing on its way toward a greater goal. It has been continuously self-improving its internal structure and management and developing on an ever greater economic scale so as to make its due contribution to the development of China's foreign trade.

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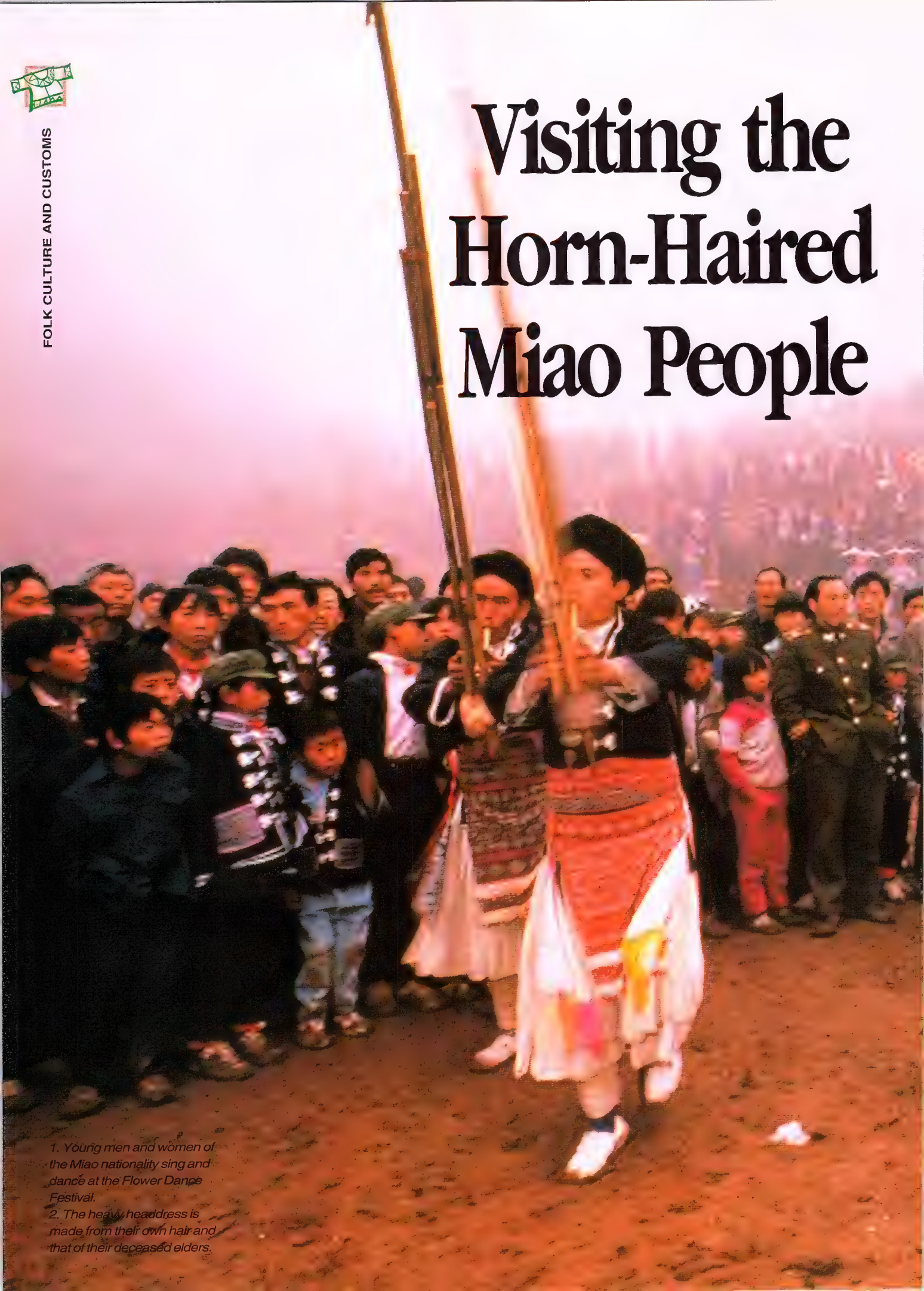
Visiting the Horn-Haired Miao People



1. Young men and women of the Miao nationality sing and dance at the Flower Dance Festival.
2. The heavy headdress is made from their own hair and that of their deceased elders.

2

It was last year when I first saw a picture of the Miao people wearing a horn-like hair style. It is said that this group of Miaos is the most primitive and mysterious ethnic minority in China. So it aroused in me a strong interest.

REST OF JOURNEY ON FOOT

February 28 is the annual Flower Dance Festival of the Miao people. The day before we started out from Guiyang, Guizhou Province. We drove along a winding, bumpy road for almost three hours to finally reach Liuzhi. Since we were still nearly 40 kilometres away from our destination, the Miao village in Longga, we decided that we would stay overnight in Liuzhi. The next morning it began to drizzle, our bus resumed its laborious climb for more than two hours along muddy, twisting roads with mist forming a blanket around us. Two kilometres away from our destination, the bus could not climb anymore.

So everyone on the bus had to get off and push! With our help, the bus managed to advance another kilometre and then refused to budge any further. The driver parked the bus, and we started to scale the remaining distance on foot. Soon every one of us dripped with sweat, even though a fierce cold wind was blowing.

Finally, we reached Longga Village. As I raised my head to look around, a sudden dizzy sensation filled my head. Surprisingly, it was not the rise in altitude but the feeling that we had stepped back in time to the period of primitive tribes.

STUNNING HEADGEAR

The mountain was shrouded by mist and rain, and it was bitterly cold. A group of Miao girls dressed in their traditional best walked down from the mountain through the mist, appearing before us like fairy maidens. They gazed at us in surprise. Short and slight of stature they were dwarfed by their huge headdresses in the shape of a "T". The local people told us of the fascinating skill used to dress their hair. First, the woman ties a big wooden horn on her head with her own hair. Then, cords of hair are bound around the wooden horn to form a ∞ shape. In fact, the cords are made from the hair of her deceased elder relatives handed down through generations. After the bun is woven, it is fixed in place with pieces of white thread with red tassels on both ends. These are made into floral designs at the back of the head. The end result is a stunning headdress.

There are approximately 4,000 Miao people belonging to this ethnic group. They are distributed in 12 different hamlets. But why do they dress their hair in such a unique style which requires three hours preparation?

Tradition has it that long ago a villager caught an exceptionally beautiful pheasant. It caused a sensation among the villagers, who wished to dress themselves as beautifully as the golden pheasant. So, they made cloaks imitating the colourful patterns of the pheasant's feathers and modelled their hair on the pheasant's crest.

WOMEN OF GENTLE DISPOSITION

Each morning the Miao women spend three hours combing their hair before going out to work in the fields. In

the evening, after a hard day's work, they sit and embroider by lamp light. Their men usually sit at home looking after the children. The women seem to have such a gentle disposition that they seldom complain about anything. If a wife is upset or feels bad about something, the most she would do is to run to a mountain slope at night and sing songs to express her grievance. On hearing her voice, her fellow sisters in the village would come out to comfort her, also with songs. When her husband hears this, he blows his bamboo flute to express his repentance and to call her back home.

On the night of the Flower Dance Festival young men and women, dressed in their holiday best, meet in the moonlight sing and dance, and choose their loved one.

Photos by Dong Wei
Article by Ouyang Changpei
Translated by Huang Youyi

1. Villagers from the 12 surrounding hamlets attend the Flower Dance Festival.
2. From these young Miao people, can you see the influence of the pheasant?
3. The young men of the Miao nationality are also very particular about their attire.
4. A large wooden horn is fastened to their heads with their own hair.

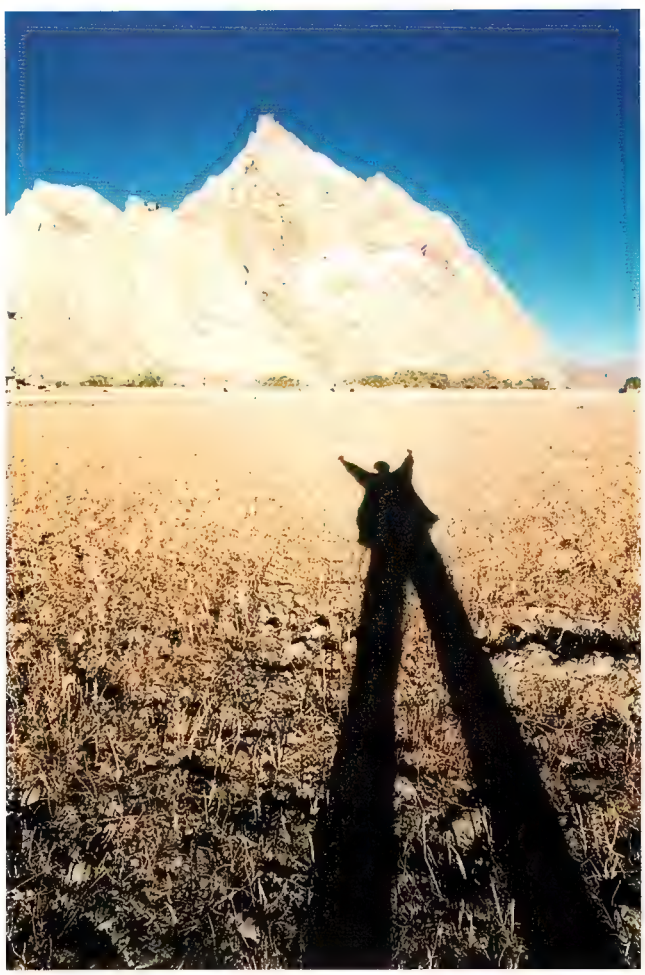
Adventure to Qomolangma, the World's Highest Peak

As a landscape photographer, I have constant cravings for commanding heights which provide a bird's-eye view of the topography.

As if to satisfy my craving, my next assignment was the Qomolangma Mountain in Tibet, which is unmatched in the world as far as height goes.

Qomolangma in Tibet rises to an astonishing 8,848 metres above sea level on the border of Tingri County, China, and the neighbouring Nepal.

Two days after we arrived at Tingri County from the city of Guangzhou, we boarded a Beijing jeep and after lunch embarked on our adventure to the Qomolangma along the Sino-Nepalese Highway. Our two drivers were to become companions.



1. Solitude – a self-portrait of the author of this travelogue
2. Autumn harvest: the threshing grounds bustle with activity.
3. At the foot of the Qomolangma.
4. Bathed in the golden sunlight, the wall of a mountainside monastery of the Kargyud (White) Sect of Tibetan Lamaism, serpentines its way to the top of the peak. There is something ancient about this scene, which is evocative of the Great Wall of China.

QOMOLANGMA IN THE GATHERING DUSK

At about six we reached the Rongbo Monastery at the foot of the Qomolangma at an altitude of 5,100 metres. The drive from Tingri County to the world's highest monastery covered about 100 kilometres for a fee of 1,500 yuan (US$180).

So far all I had eaten that day was a few pieces of candy and two tiny apples. Despite my hunger and fatigue, I dropped off my luggage and heroically set off up the mountain.

I chose a place and rigged up my camera equipment. The mountain was

tinted golden in the sunset glow. Only I marvelled at the world's tallest peak and waited for the most photogenic moment. There was a curious silence, which blended perfectly with the *mise en* scene.

It got colder and colder. The sun arched downwards steadily, its golden hue intensifying and, surreptitiously, dark shadows closed in on the mountain. By the time the last sunbeam disappeared from the roof of the world, I had lost all count of how many times I had clicked my camera. It was eight p.m.

Only then did I feel famished, and I trembled with the cold. Dusk was gathering and there was a brooding silence. A shudder ran down my spine as I realized I was alone in this wilderness at an altitude of more than 5,000 metres. It was a dangerous situation, and I was very aware that I had to leave and return to my companions before it got too dark.

I packed up my gear and immediately started on my way back. Visibility diminishing, I stumbled and staggered forward until I found the way I had followed a few hours ago. But the monastery was still some distance away, and I had no way of returning to safety any sooner.

Now that I had found my way, my footsteps relaxed and I allowed myself to enjoy the scene. The night sky was star-spangled, and at this altitude, the stars looked unusually large and bright. And they never blinked. It were as if they were staring long and hard at me, the only wayfarer in this part of the world.

My companions were happy to see me back at the monastery. In the dim light they treated me to two packets of instant noodles. The next moment they were already snoring. Finding it hard to tear myself away from the beautiful night sky, I went outside again, and did not return until I had had my fill of night scene snapshots.

THE JOYS AND DANGERS OF MOUNTAINEERING

The next morning I was the first to get up in time for the sunrise. Outside it was cold and windy. As I toiled with my camera gear my limbs and ears were frozen numb.

At 11 a.m., the five of us continued our journey into the depths of the mountain. Our jeep chugged up the mountain road, past a mountaineering camp and

then the road disappeared. The mileage recorder on the speedometer indicated that we had driven just ten kilometres. We had no alternative but to pull up on a pebbly lay-by and commence our climb up the mountain on foot.

There was no footpath to follow on this steep slope. Our only recourse was the smattering of footprints left by previous mountaineers. With a heavy load of camera gear bearing down upon my none-too-strong physique, I worked my way up laboriously, stopping now and then to catch my breath. My nose ran constantly, and my face paled from the effort. Ignoring dissuasion from the two drivers, I plodded along on leaden legs, confident that I could stick all this out. Gradually I lagged far behind my companions.

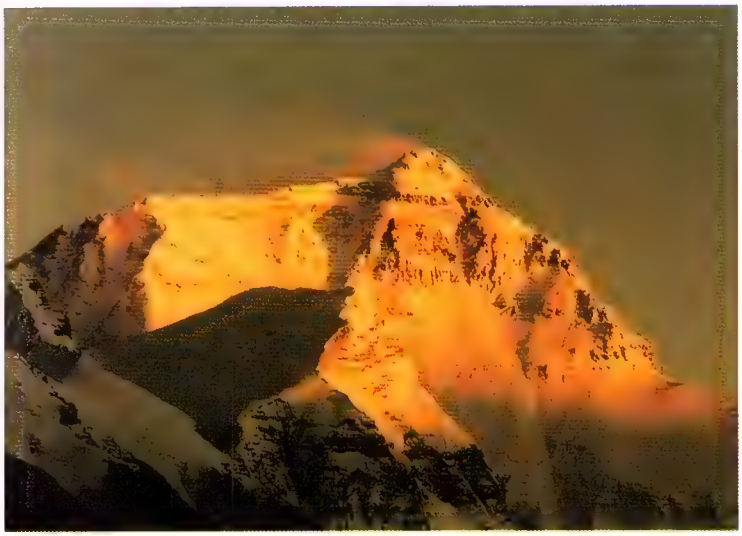
The fatigue eventually became too much, the two drivers stopped in their tracks and decided to give up the entire endeavour. After I had taken some photos of them for a keepsake, they turned back, leaving the three of us alone.

Undeterred, I trudged on, puffing and blowing. Stopping only to gasp for breath, I knew I was trailing behind, but I did not care any more. I just wanted to make the most of this once-in-a-lifetime experience. And I was confident I could make it. Tenaciously, I carried on.

A natural chasm blocked the way ahead. I could hear water running beneath the ice at the bottom of the ravine, hemmed in by vertical rock walls. An aluminum ladder was placed astride the chasm. Ever so gingerly I stepped across the makeshift bridge, and continued my adventure. More than four hours later we arrived at Camp Two, situated in a tiny depression. The few tents left there looked eerily deserted. The mountaineering season had long been over, and we found ourselves with the last group of daredevils for the year. In two more days they would leave, and the makeshift bridge and the tents would be gone with them. At which time those eager to conquer the mountain would have to wait patiently until May the following year.

We climbed a little more until I found the best position. It was so windy, I had a hard time holding my ground. Up above, the peak of the Qomolangma was close at hand; down below, the valley was given to a topographic turmoil of glaciers. The scenery was gorgeous beyond description.

I shot one picture after another, intoxicated by a feeling of triumph. Deep in my heart a voice kept saying: I've made it — I did what I wanted to do. The experience was worth a lifetime.



I certainly had reason to celebrate. At this commanding height I was able to feast my eyes on sights few others were able to see. Satisfied with the photo session, we unfolded a national flag and took a photo of each other.

LIFE AND DEATH IN THE DARK

At six p.m., we began our journey back to camp but already the darkness was thickening, striking fear into my heart for a second time.

We crossed the natural chasm before visibility was reduced to zero. Heaving a sigh of relief, I lay down on the slope for a rest.

A herd of wild deer trooped past us. They were so close that I could have reached out and touched them if I wanted to. They dawdled along, stopping now and then to cast many a wistful glance at us. I was so tired, all I could do was to stare back at them until they disappeared into the distance.

By now the entire world had been swallowed up by the darkness. The temperature continued to plummet. Cold and hunger gnawed at my insides. Pinned to the ground, my body refused to move any further. Knowing that if I chose to stay put it could spell the end of my life, I propped myself up and stumbled down the slope. All the way I had to economize on the batteries in my tiny flashlight, switching it on and off only briefly to make sure of the direction. In such a dangerous situation, this feeble light was our only hope of life.

Having climbed up a ridge I spotted a light flickering in the distance. Someone was coming to our rescue! I immediately switched on my torchlight and drew a number of circles in the air.

It was already 10:30 when we reached the foot of the mountain. I waved both hands frantically as I threw myself at our Beijing jeep. Someone handed me a cup of hot tea which I knocked back in one gulp. Then I began wolfing down one biscuit after another. Life couldn't be dearer after what I had just gone through.

Gratitude welled up in my heart as I learnt that while we were struggling for our lives, the rest of the group had stopped midway down and had waited patiently for us all that time.

Without so much as a short rest, we immediately went on our way, returning to Tingri by four the next morning. Thus ended an unforgettable experience in my career as a landscape photographer who loves to shoot at unbelievable heights.

Photos & Article by Du Younong
Translated by Ling Yuan

Above: The Qomolangma at sunset

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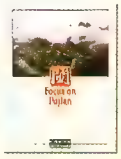

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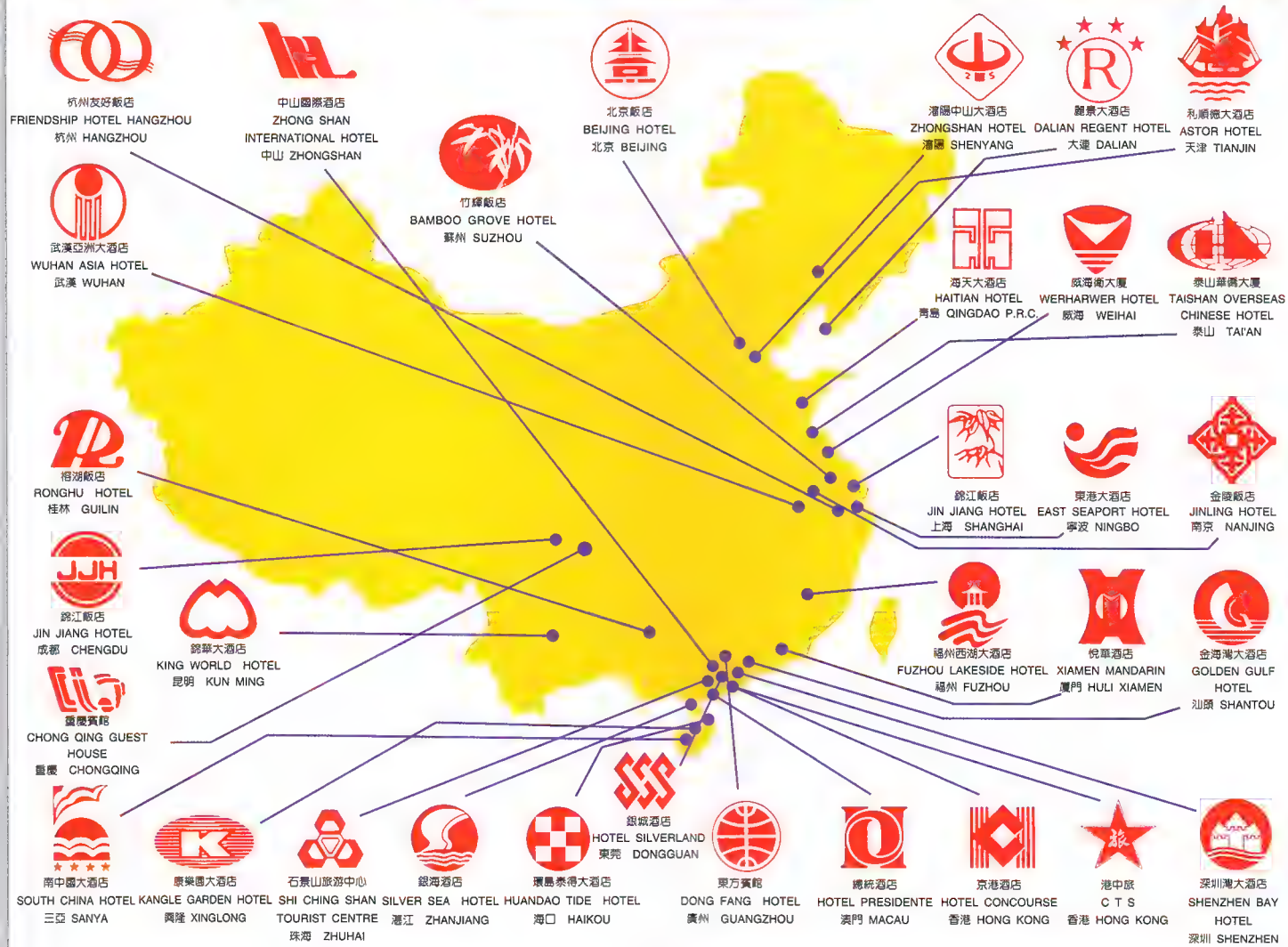

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The Last Leather-Silhouette Show

The first performance — a play to warm the bridal chamber — was about to start amidst the beating of drums and gongs. In an instant the large hall was crowded with people, young and old.

The first scene on stage was a lively performance of an energetic fight entitled "Attacking Jinping Town", an episode from the classical novel *The Song-dynasty General Yue Fei.* The act lasted for an hour after which there was a short interval, and then came a Ming-dynasty love story entitled "The Double-Link Strategy". The leading character Feng Jiajin, with the assistance of his servant, disguises himself and secretly tries to meet with a princess of the imperial family. The play was very dramatic, and the audience enjoyed themselves immensely, some roaring with laughter and others singing along with the lines of the song.

Behind the scenes, a veteran team of puppeteers brought the whole show to life. The chief operator was Lang Zili at 62, who was playing several different characters. As each scene unfolded, he read, sang and recited poetry with his rich booming voice, sometimes rising to an angry pitch and sometimes falling to a ridiculously deep tone. The whole while the fingers of his hands made the puppets appear to dance, fly into the sky, descend back to the earth, kneel in prayer, rise up from the ground, kick and fight, or just stroll. The performance was very amusing.

Sitting by his side was his assistant, 62-year-old Xu Ernan who read the parts of the other characters. The two worked well together; when one started singing, the other joined in. A second assistant operator was 73-year-old Shen Shoujiang, whose task was to rummage through the chests and cupboards for the various leather masks of the different characters, changing their heads and clothes and lining them up in readiness for their staging. He also stood in and read if there were three or more characters on stage.

Also backstage was the chief musician, 67-year-old Ping Bairong and his two assistants, 63-year-old Pan Fukang and 63-year-old Pan Jinkang. They were all expert at one particular instrument but could play a variety of wind, stringed and percussion instruments. As the play unfolded they produced accompanying music on *suona* and bamboo flute. Interestingly, the 66-year-old drummer Li Haijin, though deaf as a post, beat the drum and clappers methodically from beginning to end without fault.

On stage the shadow figures appeared very life-like and colourful. The audience were completely caught up in the drama and magic created by the puppeteers. The vivid animation of the characters and their colourful costumes brought the ancient tales and fables to life before their eyes.

Such is the leather-silhouette show from Haining in Zhejiang Province, which older people call "Shadow Play". In the past the leather-silhouette show was very popular in Haining. Performances

1. A scene from a warming the bridal chamber play
2. The properties are transported in a big wooden trunk tied to the back of a bicycle.
3. The shadow figures vary from region to region, for example, those made in Gansu have two arms, yet those produced in Haining have only one arm.
4. This shadow figure, colourful lanterns as well as engravings are much the same as those produced in Haining.

were staged during festivals, the silkworm breeding seasons, harvesting, temple fairs, or on happy occasions such as weddings, a baby's first month of life, an elderly's birthday, etc. In its repertoire there is even a Christmas play.

Unfortunately, young people of today have no interest in learning this special performing art. Consequently, the shadow show, originating from the ancient capital of Chang'an during the Tang, Song and Five dynasties, is losing momentum.

Photos & Article by Gao Ye
Translated by Xiong Zhenru

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成都大酒店

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456 rooms and 12 suites
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Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, conference rooms, business centre, karaoke, dance hall, beauty salon, gym, shopping arcade, massage, bar

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East Section of Shudu Road, Chengdu, Sichuan 610066
Tel: 4444112, 4448888
Telex: 60164 CDHOT CN, 600077 CHMKT CN
Fax: 441603
Opened May 1984
310 rooms
Located 15 km from airport, 5 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, conference hall, business centre, bar, swimming pool, tennis court, billiard room, gym, sauna, massage, clinic, karaoke, disco, coffee shop, function rooms

Jinhe Grand Hotel
成都金河大酒店

18 Jinhe Street, Chengdu, Sichuan 610031
Tel: 6642888 Telex: 600341 JHHTL CN
Fax: (028) 632037
GM: Long Guanyin
Opened April 1991
400 rooms and 8 suites
Located 18 km from airport, 7 km from railway station
Facilities: Revolving restaurant, banquet hall, conference rooms, bar, karaoke, disco, dance hall, business centre, billiard room

Jinjiang Hotel
錦江賓館

80 Section 2, Renmin Road South, Chengdu, Sichuan 610014
Tel: 5582222 Telex: 60109 JJH CN
Fax: 5582348
GM: Luo Lixian
Opened May 1960
523 rooms and suites
Located 17 km from airport, 5 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, conference halls, banquet hall, bar, shopping arcade, nightclub, KTV, billiards, sauna, massage, swimming pool, tennis court, gym, bowling

Minshan Hotel
岷山飯店

55 Section 2, Renmin Road South, Chengdu, Sichuan 610021
Tel: 5583333 Telex: 60247 MSH CN
Fax: 5582154

GM: Li Li
Opened January 1988
422 rooms and suites
Located 7 km from airport, 2 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese, Western and Japanese restaurants, banquet hall, conference hall, business centre, shopping arcade, nightclub, karaoke, swimming pool, beauty salon, sauna

Tibet Hotel Chengdu
成都西藏飯店

10 Renmin Road North, Chengdu, Sichuan 610081
Tel: (028) 3333988 Telex: 60309 THC CN
Fax: (028) 3333526
GM: He Shengqiu
Opened February 1988
359 rooms and suites
Located 22 km from airport, 1 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, business centre, shopping arcade, karaoke, beauty salon, massage, recreation centre

Zhufeng Hotel Chengdu
成都珠峰賓館

107 Shangxi Shuncheng Street, Chengdu, Sichuan 610015
Tel: 6662441 Telex: 600023 ZHGHO CN
Fax: 671717
Opened March 1988
270 rooms
Located in the city centre, 20 km from airport, 4 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese restaurants, banquet hall, business centre, bar, karaoke, disco, billiard room, shopping arcade, beauty salon

Chongqing, Sichuan

Chongqing Guesthouse
重慶賓館

235 Minsheng Road, Chongqing, Sichuan 630010
Tel: (0811) 345888 Telex: 62122 CQGH CN
Fax: (0811) 330643
GM: Yang Huai
Opened July 1985
265 rooms
Located in downtown Chongqing, 30 km from airport, 5 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Korean restaurants, business centre, conference rooms, health club, swimming pool, sauna, massage, nightclub, karaoke, dance room, bar, billiard room, mini-golf, beauty salon, shopping arcade

Chung King Hotel
重慶市重慶飯店
41 Xinhua Road, Chongqing, Sichuan 630011
Tel: (0811) 349301 Fax: (0811) 343085
GM: Ronnie Chui Jing Wah
200 rooms and suites
Located in the city centre, 33 km from airport, 5 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, bar, conference hall, dance hall, disco, karaoke, shopping arcade, business centre, clinic, beauty salon, sauna, billiards, gym, massage

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重慶揚子江假日飯店
15 Nanping Beilu, Chongqing, Sichuan 630060
Tel: 203380 Telex: 62220 HIYCQ CN
Fax: 200884
GM: Peter Pollmeier
Opened February 1989
379 rooms and suites
Located 5 km from city centre, 30 km from airport, 4 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese restaurant, business centre, disco, karaoke, bar, ballroom (300 persons), outdoor swimming pool, health club, sauna, massage, billiard room, shopping arcade, beauty salon, gym

Shaping Grand Hotel
重慶沙坪大酒店
84 Xiaolongkan New Street, Shapingba District, Chongqing, Sichuan 630030
Tel: (0811) 963195 Fax: (0811) 963293
GM: Deng Fajing
216 rooms and suites
Located 30 km from airport, 1 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, bar, karaoke, conference hall, exhibition hall, dance hall, disco, florist, shopping arcade, business centre, clinic, beauty salon, sauna, billiards, gym, massage, swimming pool, baby sitting service, facilities for handicapped persons

Wuhan, Hubei

Hubei Lijiang Hotel
湖北麗江飯店
1 Tiyu Road, Wuchang District, Wuhan 430071
Tel: (027) 7813668 Fax: (027) 7813638
225 rooms and suites
Located 6 km from airport, 3 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, coffee shop, bar, conference rooms, dance hall, massage, shopping arcade, clinic, beauty salon

Jianghan Hotel
江漢飯店
245 Shengli Road, Jiang'an District, Wuhan, Hubei 430014
Tel: (027) 3821254 Fax: (027) 5814342
98 rooms and suites
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Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, coffee shop, bar, conference rooms, dance hall, disco, karaoke, shopping arcade, business centre, clinic, beauty salon, baby sitting

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晴川飯店
88 Ximachang Street, Hanyang District, Wuhan, Hubei 430050
Tel: (027) 4846688 Fax: (027) 5864964
297 rooms and suites
Located 13 km from airport, 9 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, coffee shop, bar, conference rooms, disco, karaoke, shopping arcade, business centre, florist, clinic, beauty salon, sauna, billiards, gym, massage, tennis court, baby sitting, facilities for the handicapped

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琁宮飯店
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Located 19 km from airport, 1.5 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, coffee shop, bar, conference rooms, dance hall, karaoke, shopping arcade, business centre, clinic, beauty salon, massage, baby sitting, facilities for the handicapped

Yangtze Hotel
長江大酒店

1131 Jiefang Road, Hankou, Wuhan, Hubei 430030
Tel: (027) 5862828 Fax: (027) 5854110
GM: Francis Lam
202 rooms and suites
Located 25 km from airport, 4 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, coffee shop, bar, conference rooms, exhibition hall, dance hall, disco, karaoke, shopping arcade, business centre, clinic, beauty salon, sauna, billiards, gym, massage, bowling, steam bath, facilities for the handicapped

Shanghai

Garden Hotel
花園飯店

58 Maoming Road South, Shanghai 200020
Tel: 64151111 Telex: 30157 GHSG CN
Fax: 64158866
GM: Risaburo Ayabe
Opened October 1989
500 rooms and suites
Located in the city centre, 14 km from airport, 4 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese, Japanese and Western restaurants, business centre, function rooms, health club, beauty salon

Jiangsu Hotel
江蘇飯店
888 Wuning Road, Shanghai 200063
Tel: 62161888 Telex: 33955 SHJSH CN
Fax: 62162223
GM: Li Rui Sheng
233 rooms and suites
Located 14 km from airport, 4 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, business centre, shopping arcade, gym, sauna, karaoke, beauty salon, clinic

Jin Jiang Hotel
錦江飯店
59 Mao Ming Road South, Shanghai 200020
Tel: 62582582 Telex: 33380 GRJJH CN
Fax: 64725588
GM: Jia Zhi Yong
Opened June 1951
515 rooms and suites
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Facilities: Chinese restaurants, bar, business centre, shopping arcade, beauty salon, gym, tennis court, ballroom, sauna

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新錦江大酒店
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和平飯店
20 Nanjing Road East, Shanghai 200002
Tel: 63211244 Telex: 33914 BTHPH CN
Fax: 63290300
GM: Wang Ji Ming
Opened 1929
420 rooms and suites
Located on the Bund, 18 km from airport, 5 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, bars, business centre, shopping arcade, beauty salon, gym, sauna, billiard room

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千鶴賓館
650 Yishan Road, Shanghai 200233
Tel: 64700000 Telex: 33181, 33945
Fax: 64700348
GM: Huang Min
470 rooms and suites
Located 9 km from airport, 10 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, bars, business centre, shopping arcade, beauty salon, dance hall, sauna and massage, gym, billiard room, disco, karaoke

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上海國際機場賓館
2550 Hongqiao Road, Shanghai 200335
Tel: 62558866 Telex: 30033 SIAH CN
Fax: 62558393
GM: Kengo Aso
Opened June 1988
308 rooms
Located near the airport, 15 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, bar, business centre, multi-function hall, meeting room, beauty salon, massage

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65 Yan'an Road West, Shanghai 200040
Tel: 62481688 Telex: 33188 EQUAT CN
Fax: 62481773
GM: Claude Ricca
526 rooms and suites
Located 12 km from airport, 4 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese, Japanese and Western restaurants, banquet hall, cafe, business centre, disco, karaoke, beauty salon, clinic, gym, swimming pool, spa, sauna, massage, tennis courts, squash, bowling alley, billiard room

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上海錦滄文華大酒店

1225 Nanjing Road West, Shanghai 200040
Tel: 62791888 Telex: 33939 SJCMH CN
Fax: 62791822
GM: Michael Ow
Opened July 1990
600 rooms
Located in the heart of the city, 16 km/30 min from airport, 5 km/10 min from railway station and the Bund
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, bars, business centre, ballroom, fitness centre, karaoke, beauty salon

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喜來登華亭賓館

1200 Caoxi Road North, Shanghai 200030
Tel: 64391000 64396000 Telex: 33589 SHHTH CN
Fax: 62550830 62550719
GM: Giorgio Burigana
Opened 1986
1008 rooms and suites
Located 10 km from airport and railway station
Facilities: Italian and Chinese restaurants, business centre, meeting rooms, bars, disco, recreation centre, beauty salon, shopping arcade

Silk Road Hotel
絲路之路大飯店

777 Quyang Road, Shanghai 200437
Tel: 65449988
Fax: 65448528
GM: Song Bao Geng
246 rooms
Located 25 km from airport, 8 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese, Western and Islamic restaurants, business centre, shopping arcade, gym, billiard room, sauna, disco, karaoke

Tai Ping Yang Westin Hotel
上海太平洋大飯店

5 Zunyi Road South, Shanghai 200335
Tel: 62758888 Telex: 33345 PASHC CN
Fax: 62755420
MD: Andre G. Rolli
Opened September 1990
578 rooms and suites
Located in the Hongqiao Development Zone, less than 7 km from downtown, 6.8 km from airport, 8 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese, Japanese and Western restaurants, business centre, shopping arcade, ballroom, function rooms, health club

Yangtze New World Hotel
上海揚子江大酒店

2099 Yan'an Road West, Shanghai 200335
Tel: 62750000 Telex: 33675 YNWHR CN
Fax: 62750750
GM: Poul E. Bitsch
Opened March 1991
570 rooms and suites
Located 6.8 km from airport, 8 km from railway station, 12 km from the Bund
Facilities: Chinese, Western and Southeast Asian restaurants, bars, business centre, shopping arcade, gym, disco, karaoke, sauna

Lhasa, Tibet

Holiday Inn Lhasa Hotel
拉薩假日酒店

1 Minzu Road, Lhasa, Tibet 850001
Tel: (0891) 6332221 Telex: 68010 HILSA CN
Fax: (0891) 6335796
GM: Daniel Desmonts
Opened August 1986
468 rooms and suites
Located 95 km from airport
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, bar, dance hall, swimming pool, shopping arcade, beauty salon, massage

Lhasa Tibet Hotel
拉薩西藏賓館

221 Beijing Road West, Lhasa, Tibet 850001
Tel: (0891) 6336784, 6334966
Telex: 68013 TGSTH CN Fax: (0891) 6336787
GM: Chanba Dantar
Opened June 1986
104 rooms and suites
Located 100 km from airport, 2 km from bus station
Facilities: Chinese, Tibetan and Western restaurants, coffee shop, bar, conference rooms, dance hall, karaoke, theatre, shopping arcade, business centre, clinic, massage, baby sitting, sauna, horse riding

Gyangzê, Tibet

Gyangzê Hotel
西藏江孜飯店

Gyangzê Town, Gyangzê County, Xigazê, Tibet 857400
Tel: (08019) 2222
GM: Lunzhu Ciren
Opened May 1988
122 rooms and suites
Located in city centre, 230 km from airport
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, bar, conference rooms, shopping arcade, beauty salon, billiards

Dai-Style Brocade

Photo by Shao Yu

For over 1,000 years brocade has been a popular handicraft of the Dais, a minority ethnic group living mainly in China's Yunnan Province. The Dai-style brocade is wrought by using fine cotton yarn for the warp and red, black or golden thread for the weft. Virtually every Dai woman is an expert brocade weaver. A unique local flavour and a vivid sense of life are hallmarks of the Dai-style brocade.

Rooted in time-honoured history with simplistic style, Dai brocade has earned itself a reputation for superb craftsmanship, unique patterns, bright colours, high durability and ethnic style. The patterns employed are of a rich variety, ranging from precious birds and bizarre animals to crops, flowers and geometric patterns. In a piece of Dai-style brocade each colour or outline is given a meaning. For instance, skirts embroidered in red and green are meant to commemorate the ancestors; peacock patterns are a symbol of good luck; and the elephant means a bumper harvest. With their profound and colourful patterns, the Dai-style brocade gives perfect expression to the Dai people's wisdom and their inexhaustible quest for a better life.

Photo by Ge Jialin

Translated by Ling Yuan

TRAVELLERS' CORNER

Adventure to Tropical Xishuangbanna

We had planned our trip to Xishuangbanna in Yunnan Province several months in advance, having heard that it was a beautiful, exotic region bordering Laos and Myanmar, with many temples and a great variety of people of different ethnic backgrounds. However, I was only able to gather general information on this area. Specifics, such as domestic flights to Xishuangbanna, were unavailable. Not even the tour agencies could help. In fact, because of its low profile, not many had even heard of Xishuangbanna. Not knowing exactly how to get to our destination nor what to expect made the trip even more exciting.

Xishuangbanna used to be unreachable by air. Friends who visited Xishuangbanna five years ago recalled taking a two-day bus ride from Kunming which then allowed them to take a propeller plane to Jinghong. They also said we would need permits to enter this region but travel agencies in Singapore and Hong Kong could not confirm this. We decided to go to Kunming and from there play it by ear.

Kevin, Rossana, and I arrived in Jinghong on Tuesday at 5:10 p.m. after a 45-minute flight from Kunming. It was extremely difficult to purchase tickets to Jinghong in Kunming because China's National Tourists Exchange Conference was taking place there that week. As soon as we stepped out of the plane, we felt the heat and humidity. After collecting our luggage we were greeted by a tanned tour guide, Zheyun, who offered to drive us into town for only one yuan (about US$0.13) each.

It was a beautiful, scenic 20-minute ride into town, with fields, palm trees, and fruit trees on either side. The houses were built of bamboo and thatched palm leaves, wood, or brick. Some of the houses stood on stilts, each had its own unique style. Zheyun, a Dai minority, suggested we stay at the hotel where he worked, pointing out that most hotels would be full with delegates from the conference. But, because the hotel would not allow the three of us to stay in the same room, we decided to shop around.

However, we learnt the town had extremely strict morals, none would allow male and female singles to sleep in the same room. After an hour's bargaining up and down the street, we had no choice but to find two doubles at the Shangye Guesthouse across the street from Zheyun's workplace. Wiping the sweat from his forehead, Zheyun kindly told us we should have listened to him in the first place.

That evening, we would have liked a local feast which included live traditional dance, but all the restaurants were packed. We settled for local Chinese food which included chicken and herbs cooked in a clay pot. After dinner, we walked through town, along the streets lined with palm trees. We did not feel like we were in China, people were dressed in summer clothes and rickshaws were everywhere. We felt somewhat like we were back in Singapore. Zheyun pointed out the four-elephant structure marking the centre of town. He took us to an open square where vendors sold sugarcane, quail eggs, and marinated fruits; poolplayers shot pool under the street lights; and a group of seniors played croquet. We sampled some food, then went to the local nightclub.

Early the next morning, we were off to Damenglong, to see the White Pagoda. Located about 50 kilometres south of Jinghong, this pagoda is considered outstanding in this area for its striking beauty. Unwilling to spend 300 yuan to rent a car, we took the advice in our guidebook and hopped on a local bus, actually a sardine-packed van, for 10.40 yuan. It was a great opportunity to mix with the locals. The two-hour ride was scenic but bumpy, as we drove through narrow dirt roads and passed by outlying villages with women dressed in bright-coloured clothes, working by the side of the road.

Having travelled for an hour-and-a-half, we started to look out for a pagoda. Passengers disembarked at various points, but by the time we reached the end of the route we had not seen the pagoda and the driver told us we had to get off. We backtracked a kilometre on foot. Seeing some young monks swarmed around video games, we inquired for directions, which led us through some villages. We climbed a long hill before finally reaching the White Pagoda, feeling tired, hot, and sweaty. We paid five yuan to see the White Pagoda which actually seemed silver in colour and was not as large nor as grand as we were expecting. The most interesting part of the trip was passing through the villages, meeting the locals; we greeted young girls by saying "*sao da li*" meaning "You are pretty."

We returned to town in a 'miniature bread box' taxi for 11 yuan each. Eight of us squeezed into that taxi. The ride was very tight, rough, and bumpy. Every now and then, the taxi stopped in the middle of the road; perhaps the heat and heavy load were too much for the engine to bear. Fifteen minutes before we reached Jinghong, the engine died. The driver asked Kevin and two other passengers to help push the car backwards in order to restart the engine. Two peasant women and other fellow passengers decided to relieve themselves at the roadside. These two women, of the Dai ethnic, had golden smiles, evidence of their gold-capped teeth. We were told the gold caps are considered a beauty accessory just as jewellery is to us. Twenty minutes later, to our surprise, the push restarted the engine.

We looked forward to dinner that evening. Our guide took us to a street lined with restaurants. Because we were mainly interested in watching the cultural dances, we paid 110 yuan for a 12-course meal intended for ten people. We thought the price was reasonable as it included a show. We squeezed to the front to watch. The music sounded soothing and relaxing. The costumes, dancing style, and story-lines were related to that of the Dai nationality.

Our plans the following day included a trip to the town of Xiao Mengla in Myanmar. The greatest attraction there is the large jade market. We purchased our tour package from Zheyun's workplace. Rossana and I each paid 150 yuan while Kevin paid 50 yuan less because he would not be able to get across the border without a visa. Actually, neither Rossana nor I had visas, but because we looked like natives, we would be able to get in with fake identification without arousing too much suspicion. Kevin, however, was a tall New Zealander!

Our excursion began at 8:00 a.m. During the ride Ms. Yang, our tour guide, entertained us with stories of life amongst the different ethnic groups in Xishuangbanna and delighted us with songs in her native dialect. She stressed that out of all the

1. Meeting villagers was the most interesting part of the trip.
2. The unique roof of Octagonal Pagoda
3. Primeval forest in Mengla

tours, this would be the most uncomfortable and challenging because of the rough terrain. An interesting fact she related to us was that women in this region marry at quite a young age and tend to divorce often. This raises a girl's status, making her even more desirable. Thus, it would not be surprising to find a 14 or 15 years old girl who has been married and divorced several times.

Upon arrival at our first spot, Jingzhen, the weather was very foggy and chilly. The main attraction here is the Octagonal Pavilion called Jingzhen Bajiaoting, distinguished for its striking and unique roof construction. A young monk was meditating on top of the elephant structure that was standing on one side of the pavilion. We took turns to climb up the ladder to pose with the monk, but were distracted by the smell of grilled chicken, meat, and corn on sale by the roadside.

On our way towards the Octagonal Pavilion, we stopped to admire the many young girls sitting on swings. They were all attired in bright, colourful dresses, had sophisticated hairdos, and wore make-up. We took photos with them. One girl innocently, yet sweetly indicated I had to pay to pose with which we did not realize. Ms. Yang said 20 to 50 *fen* (US$0.03-$0.07) would do. That's how they earn a living.

During lunch Ms. Yang collected everyone's identification for entry into Myanmar. She gave Rossana and myself false identification should we be questioned. Since Kevin would not be crossing the border, we dropped him off at Daluo, a small township near the border where he did some sightseeing and exploring. The whole ordeal at the border took us over 50 minutes even though Ms. Yang tried to hurry up the process, the patrol officers taking their time. This is one of the difficulties of travelling in China.

We arrived at a hot, dusty town. Rossana and I headed straight for the jade market, keeping in mind Ms. Yang's earlier lecture that jades and gemstones, though very valuable to those of us from other regions, were worthless pieces of rock to the sellers. Thus, we bargained hard. As soon as I told the owner we were natives, he slashed the price in half. He said they usually mark up the pieces 100 percent. We paid 80 yuan for a quarter-sized jade piece which had a price-tag of 1800 yuan and that, probably, was too much.

After dinner that evening, Zheyun took us to a hot spring. Although it was 11:00 p.m. there were still many people soaking in the water. We were told most people go late. At first we felt uncomfortable in the communal hot spring but once we got into the water, we felt as free as a bird. Everyone kept to themselves and no one bothered us. The hot water felt extremely relaxing; so comfortable that we did not want to leave.

The next morning we took another tour. The ride was bumpy and rough as usual. We drove around many mountains and hills. Ms. Huang, our tour guide, a cute and stylish young lady sporting bell bottom jeans and a hat, pointed out Yunnan's tea centre, pineapple fields, and papaya and banana trees. Our first stop was the Galanba Market in Menghan. Busloads of tourists crowded this lively market which was filled with vendors selling a cornucopia of crafts, fresh vegetables, fruits, food, and household goods.

After lunch we arrived at the Botanical Garden in Menglun where over 2,000 kinds of tropical plants and trees have been introduced from within China and abroad, many unusual and unique. We came across a dancing tree which dances when a person sings a love song to it! Just outside the botanical garden, Ms. Huang pointed out a bridge, under which the Mekong River flows. She explained the Mekong flows for 4,350 kilometres across Asia, passing through China, Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam but, surprisingly, there are only two bridges across it — the one in front of us and the bridge between Vientiane and Nong Khai, Laos. On the way back, we stopped to admire the beauty of the primeval forest in Mengla.

We travelled back into Jinghong, arriving in the early afternoon and took the opportunity to stroll around town. As this was our last evening, we partied all night and ended up relaxing at the hot spring, returning at 4:00 a.m. to find our guesthouse locked and the guard asleep. Since we could not get into our rooms, Zheyun requested two rooms for us at his hotel.

We slept soundly until 7:30 a.m., then rushed to our rooms to pack and check out. We rented bikes to ride across the Lancang River Bridge to the other side of town where we visited several temples including a 50-year-old Thai temple where a young monk showed us the intricate and colourful wall paintings depicting kindness and retribution. He also explained how flexible their way of life was. They could smoke, eat meat, and leave the order at anytime. In fact, he was smoking while talking to us.

We rode back into town for lunch, then raced to Manjinglan Village. There was not much to see in this park except for some elephants. Most tourists

1. The author and Rossana posing with the local beauties.
2. Local street vendors

dressed up in the ethnic costumes for photos and I was no exception. As we were about to leave the park, several women in costumes across the street started to chase after the tourists, throwing buckets of water at them. Zheyun explained that splashing water at someone means welcome and is supposed to bring good luck for the person being splashed. He added that there is more fun during the Water-Splashing Festival in April, New Year's Day by the Dai calendar. Last, but not least, we shopped for different types of tea as Yunnan is renown for producing tea. We exchanged addresses and took photos with everyone as our stay had come to an end. Our five-day visit was indeed a fruitful learning experience filled with excitement, satisfaction, and fun.

Useful Tips

Getting there: Direct flights to Kunming are available from Singapore, Hong Kong, Rangoon, and other major foreign and domestic cities. From Kunming to Jinghong, simply fly or take the bus or rent a taxi, both requiring three days. Buses are about 170 yuan (about US$20) one way; taxis about 4,000 yuan (US$480) round-trip; and flights about 800 yuan (US$96) one way for foreigners. Flights out of Jinghong are all to Kunming.

Visas/travel permits: Visas are obtainable at any Chinese Consulate. In Singapore 90-day visas to China cost about US$30 for Americans, but less for other nationalities (Rossana and Kevin paid US$20 each) and double or multiple entries are not available. In Hong Kong visas cost the same for everyone, also, double, triple, and multiple entries are obtainable. Double entries cost HK$350. The permit into Xishuangbanna may be arranged in Kunming at the China Travel Service.

When to visit: Xishuangbanna is hot and humid with an average temperature of 21°C. The rainy season is from June to September and the dry season is from October to the following May. The Water-Splashing Festival, the grandest festival of the Dai, is celebrated every year in the second ten days of April. During the festival, activities such as dragon-boat racing, sending off skyrockets, and throwing love pouches are held. And, of course, everyone takes the opportunity to splash water at each other for benediction.

Accommodation: The Xishuangbanna Hotel, the largest in Jinghong, is located at 11 Galan Middle Road, near the town centre. A unique building full of ethnic characteristics, consists of 266 rooms priced from US$35. Jinghong Hotel, located at 16 Galan Middle Road, has rooms from about US$30. The Banna Hotel is located in the town centre, on the corner of Jinghong West and East. Rooms start at about US$30. Lower budget alternatives are the Shangye and Nongken Fenju guesthouses with rooms for US$8-16.

Food: Chinese food is served everywhere. Chicken and herb soup cooked in a clay pot is a local speciality that travellers must try. Locals say this tasty soup helps to improve one's general health and complexion. When visiting towns and villages, travellers will find grilled chicken skewered on bamboo sticks and grilled glutinous rice stuffed in hollow bamboo.

Getting around: Everything is within walking distance. Bicycles may be rented at about US$3 a day to ride around town and explore its surroundings. Rickshaws are an inexpensive way to sightsee without having to worry about direction. For excursions out of Jinghong, full-day tours are offered at about US$25. Should travellers prefer to travel alone or in their own group, taxis and buses are also available.

Photos & Article by Becky Chee

Flights to and from Chongqing

Route	Days of Week	Dep.	Arr.	Flight No.
Beijing — Chongqing	1 2 4 5 6	10:25	12:45	SZ4138
	4 7	10:55	13:30	3U132
	3 6	13:00	15:25	SZ4116
	1	14:00	16:40	G8 108
	2	16:10	18:50	G8 104
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	16:20	18:50	SZ4142
	7	16:50	19:20	SZ4644
	3 6	17:00	19:40	G8 102
Chongqing — Beijing	1 2 4 5 6	07:20	09:35	SZ4137
	3 6	07:50	10:10	G8 101
	2	08:15	10:40	G8 103
	7	08:35	10:50	SZ4643
	1	11:00	13:20	G8 107
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	13:20	15:40	SZ4141
	4 7	14:10	16:40	3U131
	3 6	16:05	18:25	SZ4115
Chengdu — Chongqing	4 7	13:15	14:15	3U327
	7	17:55	19:10	SZ4422
	1 2 3 4 5 6	18:40	20:00	SZ4422
	2 3	21:20	22:15	SZ4419
Chongqing — Chengdu	1 2 3 4 5 6	08:55	10:15	SZ4421
	7	16:05	17:20	SZ4421
	4 7	19:15	20:15	3U328
	2 3	19:50	20:45	SZ4410
Guangzhou — Chongqing	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	09:55	11:40	CZ3405
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	10:05	12:05	3U342
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	10:30	12:20	SZ4320
	4 7	12:05	13:20	SF386
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	13:15	15:05	CZ3413
	3	14:35	16:30	G8 302
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	15:05	17:15	SZ4302
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	15:15	17:05	SZ4350
	6	16:40	18:20	G8 308
	4	17:40	19:20	G8 302
	2 5	17:55	19:35	G8 304
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	18:15	20:05	SZ4342
Chongqing — Guangzhou	4	07:35	09:20	G8 301
	3	07:35	09:20	G8 301
	2 5	07:35	09:20	G8 303
	6	07:35	09:20	G8 307
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	08:10	09:50	SZ4319
	3 7	10:10	12:10	CZ3422
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	12:30	14:35	CZ3406
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	12:30	14:40	SZ4349
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	13:10	14:55	3U341
	4 7	14:20	16:10	SF385
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	15:30	17:35	SZ4341
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	15:55	17:40	CZ3414
Shenzhen — Chongqing	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	10:25	12:15	3U382
	2 6	11:00	13:00	G8 342
	2 3 4 6	11:45	13:50	SZ4344
	1 4	14:40	16:40	CZ3455
	1 5 7	15:10	17:10	SZ4344
Chongqing — Shenzhen	2 6	08:30	10:30	G8 341
	2 3 4 6	09:00	10:55	SZ4343
	1 5 7	12:35	14:25	SZ4343
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	13:00	15:00	3U381
	1 4	17:25	19:10	CZ3456

Flights to and from Wuhan

Route	Days of Week	Dep.	Arr.	Flight No.
Beijing — Wuhan	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	08:25	10:15	CZ1333
	1 3 5 6 7	10:50	12:50	CZ3118
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	14:50	16:45	CZ3138
	2	15:40	17:25	CZ3692
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	16:30	18:00	WU122
	4	17:50	19:50	CZ3134
	1 4	19:45	21:40	CZ3136
Wuhan — Beijing	1 3 5 6 7	08:20	10:10	CZ3117
	4	08:20	10:10	CZ3117
	2	08:20	10:05	CZ3691
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	12:20	14:05	CZ3137
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	13:55	15:40	WU121
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	15:35	17:30	CA1334
	7	18:10	19:50	CZ3135
	3	19:20	21:10	CZ3133
Chongqing — Wuhan	1 2 3 5 7	08:25	09:35	SZ4541
	5	09:40	11:00	G8 653
	3	13:15	14:35	G8 653
	1	17:05	18:25	CJ6742
	2 4 6	19:20	20:30	WU436
	1	20:20	21:30	CZ3446
Wuhan — Chongqing	3 7	08:00	09:20	CZ3421
	1	15:05	16:25	CJ6741
	2 4 6	17:30	18:35	WU435
	1	18:15	19:30	CZ3445
Shanghai — Wuhan	2 6	13:30	14:50	MU5323
	1	14:00	15:25	3Q4538
	1 2 3 5 6	14:25	15:20	WU502
	4 7	14:50	16:10	CZ3848
	1 2 3 4 5 6	15:35	17:05	CZ3580
	1 3 4 5 7	16:45	18:05	MU5323
	4 7	19:25	20:30	WU502
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	20:00	21:30	CZ3544
Wuhan — Shanghai	4 7	07:45	09:05	CZ3847
	1 2 3 5 7	10:20	11:40	SZ4541
	5	11:35	12:50	G8 653
	1	11:50	13:00	3Q4537
	1 2 3 5 6	12:15	13:20	WU501
	1 2 3 4 5 6	13:15	14:45	CZ3579
	3	15:05	16:20	G8 653
	2 6	15:50	17:15	MU5324
	4 7	17:20	18:30	WU501
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	18:00	19:20	CZ3543
	1 3 4 5 7	19:10	20:25	MU5324
Zhengzhou — Wuhan	1 4	10:20	12:10	GP7309
	5 7	13:30	15:10	Z2 301
Wuhan — Zhengzhou	1 4	17:40	19:40	GP7310
	5 7	19:50	21:20	Z2 302

Flights to and from Kunming

Route	Days of Week	Dep.	Arr.	Flight No.
Bangkok — Kunming	4	09:00	12:05	CZ392
	1 4	11:50	14:50	3Q462
	2 3 5 6 7	17:10	20:00	3Q466
Kunming — Bangkok	1 4	09:50	10:50	3Q461
	2 3 5 6 7	15:25	16:10	3Q465
	3	17:10	18:10	CZ391
Beijing — Kunming	1 3 6	08:00	12:30	X2 101
	3	08:00	11:40	CA905
	2 4 6	08:15	11:50	CA1403
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	12:00	15:00	3Q4122
	4 7	14:25	17:45	SZ4172
	2 6	16:50	21:00	3Q4142
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	18:25	21:40	3Q4182
Kunming — Beijing	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	08:40	11:10	3Q4121
	4 7	10:30	13:40	SZ4171
	2 6	12:10	16:10	3Q4141
	2 4 6	12:25	15:20	CA1404
	1 3 6	13:15	17:35	X2 102
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	15:00	17:45	3Q4181
	3	17:40	20:50	CA906
Chongqing — Kunming	1 5 7	08:20	09:35	SZ4425
	2 6	08:20	09:35	SZ4425
	4 7	08:35	10:00	G8 445
	6	12:25	13:30	3Q4484
	7	12:45	14:00	CJ6421
	5	13:00	14:20	CJ6461
	1 3 4 6	14:05	15:30	CJ6403
	1 5	17:00	18:15	3Q4482
	4 7	17:20	18:30	3Q4594
	3 4 5 7	17:35	18:45	SZ4423
	5	19:10	20:20	3Q4490
Kunming — Chongqing	4 7	10:15	11:20	3Q4593
	1 5 7	10:20	11:30	SZ4426
	6	10:50	11:45	3Q4483
	7	14:40	16:00	CJ6422
	5	15:10	16:20	CJ6462
	1 5	15:15	16:20	3Q4481
	1 3 4 6	16:15	17:30	CJ6404
	5	17:30	18:30	3Q4489
	2 6	18:00	19:15	SZ4426
	3 4 5 7	19:35	20:35	SZ4424
	4 7	19:45	21:00	G8 446
Guiyang — Kunming	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	08:25	09:35	G4 421
	2 4 5 7	17:00	18:10	G4 423
	2	17:50	18:40	3Q4414
	3 5	18:30	19:20	3Q4416
Kunming — Guiyang	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	14:50	16:00	G4 422
	2	16:10	17:00	3Q 4413
	3 5	16:55	17:40	3Q 4415
	2 4 5 7	18:55	20:05	G4 424
Hong Kong — Kunming	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	13:25	15:35	CZ342
Kunming — Hong Kong	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	10:35	12:30	CZ341

Route	Days of Week	Dep.	Arr.	Flight No.
Shanghai — Kunming	1 2 3 5 6 7	07:50	10:40	SF451
	2 4	10:35	14:05	MU5405
	2 3 4 5 6	10:45	13:50	3Q4542
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	10:45	13:50	3Q4542
	1	13:30	16:20	3Q4544
	2 6	13:50	17:10	SZ4518
	4 7	19:40	22:40	3Q4546
Kunming — Shanghai	2 3 4 5 6	07:40	09:55	3Q4541
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	07:40	09:55	3Q4541
	2 6	10:15	13:10	SZ4517
	1	10:15	12:50	3Q4543
	1 2 3 5 6 7	11:40	14:20	SF452
	2 4	14:45	17:45	MU5406
	4 7	16:05	18:40	3Q4545
Singapore — Kunming	1 3 6	12:35	16:10	3Q464
Kunming — Singapore	1 3 6	08:05	11:35	3Q463
Vientiane — Kunming	4	12:45	15:15	CZ394
Kunming — Vientiane	4	11:15	11:45	CZ393
Xishuangbanna — Kunming	3 6	17:40	18:20	3Q4448
	1 5	18:10	18:50	3Q4408
	1	19:30	20:10	3Q4450
	1 5	20:10	20:50	3Q4446
	1 2 3 4 5 6	20:35	21:15	3Q4422
	1 2 4 5	20:50	21:30	3Q4436
	2 3 4 7	21:20	22:00	3Q4428
	3 6	21:30	22:10	3Q4424
	2 3 5 6 7	21:40	22:20	3Q4426
	2 5 6 7	21:50	22:30	3Q4430
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	22:00	22:40	3Q4452
	1 2 3 4 5 7	22:10	22:50	3Q4454
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	22:20	23:00	3Q4418
Kunming — Xishuangbanna	3 6	08:10	08:50	3Q4447
	1 5	16:50	17:30	3Q4407
	1	18:10	18:50	3Q4449
	1 5	18:50	19:30	3Q4445
	1 2 3 4 5 6	19:15	19:55	3Q4421
	1 2 4 5	19:30	20:10	3Q4435
	2 3 4 7	20:00	20:40	3Q4427
	3 6	20:10	20:50	3Q4423
	2 3 5 6 7	20:20	21:00	3Q4425
	2 5 6 7	20:30	21:10	3Q4429
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	20:40	21:20	3Q4451
	1 2 3 4 5 7	20:50	21:30	3Q4453
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	21:00	21:40	3Q4417

(Valid to October 26, 1996)

NEWS

TOURIST INFORMATION

Zhaoqing Buddhist Stone Carvings Garden to Open

Recently completed and open to the public is a large-scale Dongfang Chanlin (Oriental Buddhist Garden) located in Zhaoqing, Guangdong Province. Situated in the southeast of Apo Rock of Seven Star Crags Scenic Area, there are 500 vividly carved Arhats in various styles as well as four separate scenic areas.

The style of the garden is copied from famous Buddhist mountains, grottoes, temples and monasteries. The carvings have been made by acknowledged masters from Hebei Province which is regarded as the "Hometown of Stone Carvings". Some newly designed works are also considered to be valuable additions to the history of Chinese art.

China's Largest Butterfly Museum

Covering an area of 2,000 square kilometres, Zhongshan Butterfly Museum in Guangdong Province is the largest in China and is now open to tourists. Located in Shalang Town, the museum houses 100 or so insects and a variety of rare butterfly specimens such as Chinese Hufeng (Tiger), Jinchan (Golden Clothing), and Chinese lappet moth. Others include the world's largest walkingstick, grandpa mosquito, snout beetle and monodragonfly.

Besides the specimens, there is a painting entitled *Butterfly Wing*, the masterpiece of famous butterfly collector, Liu Jinghuai, who spent 10 years of his life collecting 30,000 butterflies. He used these as the theme for his painting.

Potala Palace Repaired

A monument to mark the completion of 5 years of repair work costing 53 million yuan (US$6.4 million) on the historic Potala Palace in Lhasa, capital of the Tibetan Autonomous Region, was unveiled recently. The palace was first built in the 7th century and was expanded in the 1940s. It serves as one of the most important sacred places of Tibetan Buddhism.

Chongqing Tours

A number of tourist sites featuring local culture have been set up in historic Chongqing City in Sichuan Province. Such sites include the 1,000-year-old Dazu Grottoes and the Hechuan Fishing Town, an ancient battlefield of the Yuan Dynasty (1271-1368). The city has also opened a series of historic monuments marking the victory of the War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression.

In addition, folk art, including farmers' paintings, stone sculptures and dragon lanterns have already attracted thousands of tourists.

Long'ao River

Long'ao River featuring caves and waterfalls has become a major tourist attraction in Guiyang, Guizhou Province. Most of the caves have many entrances, one in the middle reaches of the river has more than 100 entrances scattered along a huge stone wall. Visitors can row boats into the caves, the longest of which is more than 10 kilometres. Waterfalls cascade from many of the caves, while ducks and green forests in the river valley complete the picturesque scene.

Amusement Plaza

A 450 million yuan (US$54 million) entertainment plaza is planned for Haikou, Hainan Province. It will feature the world's largest globe building together with China's largest sculpture theme park. The first phase of the 13.3-hectare project is already underway with completion planned for 1998.

Blossoming Beijing

Beijing has sown the seeds of a massive drive to turn Beijing into a blooming city. The flower drive was given a boost with the setting up of the largest agricultural joint venture in Beijing's suburban Shunyi County. Jointly funded by Zhangxi Village and a Dutch company the venture involves an investment of US$27.9 million and will promote the planting of flowers and sale of flowers and vegetables.

Nanchang Lake View Hotel Opens

Lake View Hotel was recently opened in Nanchang, capital of Jiangxi Province. Situated on the central island of a scenic lake in the city centre it is the first internationally managed four-star hotel in Nanchang. The 21-storey, 320-roomed hotel offers Cantonese and Western food, gymnasium, tennis courts, karaoke lounge, beauty salon, shopping arcade and business centre. The Lake View Hotel is managed by Koppen Yan Zimmermann (International) Ltd.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DISCOVERIES

Fossil Rhinoceros

The fossilized skull and jaw of a rhinoceros dating back more than 10,000 years have been found in a cave in Shennongjia, western Hubei Province.

Experts say that the skull is that of an Asian rhinoceros, the largest of the species. This particular specimen is believed to be about 12 metres long. The fossilized jaw was found several metres away from the skull in the same cave. Experts say that it is likely that traces of early human activity may be found nearby, as they usually accompanied the presence of rhinos.

AIRLINE UPDATES

Hailar Route to Open

A new air route linking Hailar in north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region with Chita in eastern Russia has opened. It will be the second international route operated by the Inner Mongolian branch of Air China. The 580-kilometre flight will take about one hour.

Mills Shut Down

Almost 1,200 small paper mills have closed in Henan Province recently to cut down on water pollution. The paper mills, were ordered to halt their pulp-making operations in June.

NEXT ISSUE

In the first of a new series entitled City Profile we present Guangzhou, more commonly known in the West as Canton. For centuries it has been the commercial gateway of southern China. Its diversity of inhabitants from around the world have created a rich medley of historical events, cultures, cuisines and architectures just waiting to be explored.

Next, a French photographer turned film director tells the enchanting story of his search for the creators of the abstract mountain mosaics fashioned by the terraced paddy fields in Yunnan Province. His search leads him high into the Ailao Mountains where he meets the mountain sculptors, Grand Dragon and Immense Knowledge. And lastly, still in Yunnan Province, details of a new Stone Forest only recently discovered.

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